



ESTABLISHED 1859.

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THE Pharmaceutical Society have gained a most important legal advantage by a decision rendered by Sheriff Rutherford in a case tried before him for alleged infringement of the Pharmacy Act. The defendants were a limited company, consisting of seven persons, no one of whom was qualified. The company, however, called itself "Chemists and Druggists," and carried on two such businesses. Recognising that under the House of Lords decision in the Provincial Supply Association case the "company" was not infringing the law, the Society now put the further question whether the individuals constituting the company have not rendered themselves personally liable by associating themselves to commit an offence. The Edinburgh Sheriff answers this question in the affirmative.

It seems to be likely that the company will not appeal against this decision. If so, it is to be hoped the Society will lose as little time as possible in pressing their advantage against other offenders.

AT the meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council on Wednesday Mr. Butt was elected to the seat vacated by Mr. John Williams. This is the second time Mr. Butt has been chosen by his colleagues in preference to another candidate more favoured by the members generally. In 1879 he was a candidate for the Council, and was placed nineteenth in a poll of twenty. When Mr. Shaw (Liverpool) resigned in the following year, the Council appointed Mr. Butt to take his place, passing over Mr. Spink, of Westminster, who was higher on the 1879 poll than Mr. Butt. This time Mr. Martin (Newcastle) was next on the poll to the successful candidates. There may have been excellent reasons for the selection of Mr. Butt, but these were carefully concealed from the outside world by taking the discussion *in camera*.

MENTION of the new buildings in the Finance Committee's report gave Mr. Evans an opportunity to inquire further as to their cost, but the President merely repeated the incomplete statement which he made at the annual meeting.

THE Society of Public Analysts will hold its annual country meeting at Leamington on the 22nd inst.

THE PARIS PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY met on Wednesday, when several interesting communications were made, notably one by Dr. De Vrij, the purport of which is that light quinine need not, after all, be impure.

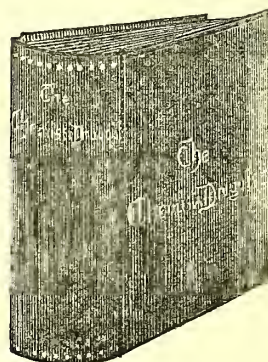
WE desire to obtain a full list of the limited companies in Great Britain who are carrying on the business of chemists and druggists. We shall be obliged to subscribers who will favour us with the exact names and addresses of any such companies in their respective localities. A brief indication of the character of the business done will also be useful.

CARBOLIC ACID, which, as we know on the highest authority, is not a poison, has a fair record this week for so harmless a substance. A woman at Exeter took some in mistake for port wine, and died; a man at Birkenhead has been killed by having it thrown over his face; a doctor at Wrenbury took some instead of a dose of medicine, and has been very ill; a boy at New Wombwell took some in mistake for ginger beer, and died; and a woman at Sheffield took some in mistake for brandy, and died.

THE chances of the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill are almost extinguished by the vote of the House of Commons, which practically surrenders to the Government all the remaining time of the session. The Pharmacy Bill was one of the orders on the day when the vote was passed, and though it has so nearly reached its final stage, it is hardly like to get another chance. It was announced at the meeting of the Pharmaceutical Council on Wednesday that the Bill would be amended in reference to the teaching of materia medica to meet the views of the Council of the British Medical Association.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Society of Chemical Industry will be held at Manchester next week. The members will meet in the Lecture Theatre of Owens College on Wednesday morning, at eleven, Mr. David Howard, president, in the chair, the business being the report of the Council and Treasurer, election of office-bearers, President's address, and other business of less importance. In the afternoon the members are expected to visit the Exhibition, where there will be "a morning-dress dinner" in the Palm House, at 7 P.M. Thursday will be spent in visiting various works, the members returning at any time they please to headquarters, the club rooms at the Victoria Hotel, which have been placed at their disposal by the Manchester Chemical Club. On Friday there will be two excursions—one to Castleton Valley in Derbyshire, the other to Glossop.

THE reading cases which we offer to subscribers are now used by a very large number of chemists, and are found very convenient. They keep together thirteen numbers in very tidy form, always ready for reference. By having two cases in hand the numbers of a complete volume are always available until the time comes for binding. We sell these cases at the office for 1s., or by parcels post 1s. 3d., or two for 2s. 3d. We cannot forward them to any house for enclosure, nor by any of the carriers, as in the latter case we have to pay for booking.



ADVERTISEMENTS of employers and assistants can now be received by us up to the first post on Friday mornings, and will be inserted in the current week's issue.



## Metropolitan Reports.

**CRICKET.—PHARMACEUTICAL V. CITY MILLS.**—The return match between these clubs was played at Tufnell Park, on Saturday last, July 1, and ended in a draw in favour of the former. The P.C.C. ran up a total of 131—the chief contributors being Lamplough 18, Williams 19, Woolley 10, Poole 24, and Aston (not out) 47. The City Mills Club lost six wickets before time was called, and had scored 49 runs.

**CHEMISTS' MINERAL WATERS ASSOCIATION C. v. STEVENSON & HOWELL C. C.**—This match was played at Gospel Oak on July 2. The Chemists' Association team, captained by Mr. H. T. Butler (the secretary), scored 106, J. Moore (29), E. A. Dov (15), F. G. Pirie (14), and W. H. Sturgess (14) being the chief contributors. Their opponents, with Mr. R. Howell as captain, all fell for 42, W. E. Winch, J. Foley, and the captain doing the most work, but no one reaching double figures.

**FESTIVITIES**—The annual excursion of the employés of Messrs. Evans, Lescher & Webb, 60 Bartholomew Close, took place on July 2, dinner being provided at the Three Tuns, Dorking. The majority of the company travelled by the same train, and on arriving at Boxhill made their way over that famous eminence, and arrived in Dorking at the specified time for dinner. The chair was occupied by E. A. Webb, Esq., and the vice-chair by Mr. Henry George. After dinner the Chairman proposed the toast of the Queen, which he considered should be received with especial heartiness in this year of jubilee. There was never such a jubilee and never such a queen. "Prosperity to the Firm" was proposed by Mr. H. George, and responded to by Mr. Webb. Mr. George read a letter from Mr. P. Wootton, chemist, Luton, who had been a customer of the firm for over 50 years, and a telegram was sent to him before the day closed to the effect that his health had been drunk as a jubilee customer. Names of other jubilee customers were also read. The other toasts on such occasions, as "The Travellers" (responded to by Messrs. H. George, J. T. Collis, T. H. Smith, and J. J. Harvey), "Office," "Warehouse," &c., all met with hearty receptions. The proceedings were interspersed with a solo on the violin by Mr. R. Berry, and a song by Mr. Grimditch.

**OILMEN AND POISONS.**—At the inquest held at White-chapel on Friday (1st inst.), regarding the death of a woman who is alleged to have been poisoned with nitric acid, Charles Moore said he was manager at an oil shop, 96 Backchurch Lane, St. George's-in-the-East, where the poison was said to have been purchased. Witness stated that the man who bought the acid produced a two-ounce bottle to hold a pennyworth. He said he was "a stick-maker." Knowing that chemical was used in the trade, witness supplied him, and added, "It is poison." It was a month prior to the 28th that witness sold any aquafortis. In reply to a jurymen, he said that with oilmen it was not usual to put a label on bottles of "dangerous stuff," as men in various trades used poison; but if a woman purchased spirits of salts a label would be placed on the bottle. The foreman of the jury thought there was great laxity on the part of the witness in supplying the man with nitric acid. The witness replied that the same might apply to every oilman, whose goods were mostly poisons, an answer which shows how necessary it is that all poisonous chemicals should be sold under proper regulations.

## Provincial Reports.

*Items of news, and newspapers containing matters of interest to the trade, sent to the Editor, will much oblige.*

### BIRMINGHAM.

**STEALING MR. HAYDON'S COATS.**—At the Birmingham Quarter Sessions on June 31, Henry Foster, aged forty, chandelier maker, was indicted for having stolen, on April 18, two coats, the property of William Frederick Haydon. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and it was stated that he had been five times

previously convicted. He stole the coats on the day when he last came out of gaol. He was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

**CHARGE OF ROBBERY.**—Joseph Sims (30), porter, was charged at the Police Court, on Tuesday, with stealing a six-gallon can of petrol and various other articles, value altogether 13s., the property of his employer, Richard Brown, wholesale druggist, Spring Hill. Prisoner had made up a number of orders, including upwards of 100 articles, for delivery in the cart to thirty different customers. Brown had his suspicions, and called in Detectives Baker and Ashby, who, just as prisoner was starting on his delivery round, searched the cart, and found that he had a number of articles in it which ought not to have been there. He was given into custody. For the defence Mr. Tanner submitted that amongst so many packages a few might easily have crept in by mistake. It was shown in evidence that mistakes had been previously made, and that a number of other packages were lying near to the parcels which the prisoner had to deliver. Mr. Tanner therefore submitted that a mistake had been made, and that at the end of the journey, when the goods had been found left over, they would have been brought back. Prosecutor, in his evidence, stated that the prisoner had been in his employment for eleven years, and had borne a good character the whole of the time. Prisoner was committed for trial to the Sessions, bail being allowed. This case being so far disposed of, prosecutor wished to proceed with another charge of stealing a package of matches. Mr. Tanner said this showed the malice of the prosecution. The evidence in this case, however, was insufficient, and the proceedings were stopped by the Stipendiary.

**OUTRAGEOUS PRACTICAL JOKE.**—An extraordinary practical joke was perpetrated on Tuesday evening on a man named William Adcock, aged fifty-eight, a chemist and druggist's assistant. The perpetrators of the joke are at present unknown, and the method of its perpetration is very uncertain, for Adcock himself knows very little about the matter. All he can say is that about five o'clock he went into the Swan Tavern, Vaughton Street, and stayed there drinking. Whilst he was there he says that a number of men, whom he did not recognise, painted his face by some means which he cannot describe, and then put him over a wall into William Edward Street. Very little reliance is to be placed on his statements, however, for he was the worse for drink when he made them. A police constable, however, who found Adcock in William Edward Street, and took him to the station, says that about seven o'clock he noticed a crowd of persons, all very much excited, standing round the premises of Mr. W. Stevens, a carriage painter in that street. Looking into the yard he perceived Adcock standing up, whilst a man was doing something to his face with a brush, and the others were standing round and looking on. Adcock's face was besmeared with paint, and the officer went into the yard with a view to discovering whether he had met with an accident, when he was ordered to leave the yard, the man with the brush saying that he could not get the paint off. Thinking that Adcock was employed on the premises, and that he had become daubed by accident, the officer left. Noticing, however, that the crowd grew he turned back, and then found Adcock in the street, with cheeks, forehead, and head daubed with vermilion and varnish, whilst his short thick beard had been coloured blue, and his eyebrows were hidden with yellow ochre. At the hospital the paint and varnish were partly removed with turpentine, but it will be several days before Adcock's face assumes its normal appearance.

### BRISTOL.

**ALLEGED MURDER BY CHLORODYNE.**—A servant named Sarah E. Joseph, in the employ of an auctioneer named Sloman, of Bedminster, Bristol, was left on Tuesday in charge of two children. In the evening, on the return of the family, the servant said she thought one of them, a boy eighteen months old, was dying. There was a strong smell of chlorodyne about the child, and it was found that some chlorodyne and tincture of steel had been taken from a bottle. The boy was taken to the hospital, and died almost immediately. The servant was arrested on a charge of murder.



## EXETER.

**A BELL-RINGING ASSISTANT.**—John Colebank, a chemist's assistant, has had to pay 10s. for purposely ringing the bell of a draper in the town.

**TAKING POISON FOR PORT WINE.**—An inquest was held at the Topsham Inn on July 1, on the body of Sarah Ann Patience Coles, who had died from the effects of poison taken in mistake for port wine, at the Devon and Exeter Hospital on the previous evening. Her husband, a publican, said that on the previous Tuesday his wife called from upstairs and asked him to bring her a drop of port wine. Before he could procure the wine some customers entered the house, and consequently he was unable to get it at that moment. Before he had finished attending to the customers he heard a noise upstairs as if some one was ill. He ran upstairs as quickly as possible, and found deceased about to fall, when he caught her in his arms. It appeared she had herself gone to a cupboard where some port wine was kept, and had taken in mistake some liquid from a bottle labelled "Saxum's Sanitary Fluid." After giving her an emetic she was removed to the hospital, and seemed to be doing well, but died rather suddenly on the Thursday evening. Dr. Blomfield, house surgeon at the hospital, deposed to admitting deceased into that institution. She was quite conscious, and was vomiting a thick yellow fluid, smelling of coal tar. Witness used the stomach-pump, which removed the rest of the fluid from the stomach. She was then put to bed. She presented the appearance of a person suffering from disease of the heart. Witness had made a post-mortem examination, and considered that deceased died from failure of the heart's action, accelerated by acute inflammation of the stomach, which might have resulted from the sanitary fluid. In his opinion the fluid contained carbolic acid, although it was advertised as being non-poisonous. He did not think the deceased could have lived many weeks under any circumstances. The verdict was that deceased died from the effects of the fluid taken in mistake.

## HULL.

**CHARGE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER BY WHITE PRECIPITATE.**—At Hull Police Court on July 2, Sarah Coultars, the wife of a yeast merchant, was charged with attempting to murder her two children, the ages of whom were not mentioned. The woman is alleged, after a quarrel with her husband, to have administered to the children white precipitate or sugar of lead. The husband, noticing something wrong with the children, at once went for a doctor, and restoratives were applied with success, but at one time their lives were endangered. The accused was remanded.

## LIVERPOOL.

**AN ASSISTANT COUNTY ANALYST.**—At the annual session of county justices held at Preston on June 30 Mr. Walter Collingwood Williams, B.Sc., of Liverpool, was appointed assistant analyst for the county. It was stipulated that Mr. Williams should not act as an analyst for any other county, or for any other borough or place not within the county of Lancaster; that his salary should be 150*l.* per annum, with an additional fee of 8*s.* for every certificate, and travelling expenses whenever he is required to give evidence personally in support of his certificate; and that the appointment be subject to the approval of the Local Government Board. It was said that Dr. Campbell Brown, the county analyst, had had a great deal of extra work upon his shoulders, and the County Analyst Committee had urged the appointment of an assistant.

**CARBOLIC-ACID THROWING.**—An elderly man named Henry Martin has been charged at the Birkenhead Police Court with having wilfully murdered a young man named Henry Burrows by throwing carbolic acid at him. Both men were labourers in the employ of the Birkenhead Brewery Company, Livingstone Street, Birkenhead. The prisoner was chief cellarman and the deceased under cellarman. There was a well in the cellar of the premises used for draining the latter, and these two men were employed to clean out the well, and some carbolic acid was to be afterwards put in the well. In consequence of a quarrel, according to the evidence

of other workmen, Martin threw some carbolic acid over Burrows, and while some fellow-workmen were attending to the sufferer Martin again came up and threw another half-pint of the acid into his face. The poor fellow was taken to the hospital, but died twenty-four hours afterwards.

## NANTWICH.

**A DOCTOR'S MISTAKE WITH CARBOLIC ACID.**—Dr. Thomson, of Wrenbury, near Nantwich, is suffering from the effects of poisoning, caused in a remarkable manner. Whilst in conversation with his two nieces in his surgery on Wednesday night he placed his hand in mistake upon a small bottle of carbolic acid and swallowed the contents, believing it to be a dose of medicine which he had prepared for himself. He has been in the care of several physicians since, and is progressing as favourably as possible.

## NEW WOMBWELL.

**CARBOLIC ACID FOR GINGER BEER.**—On Tuesday a lad named Lindley, aged 16, employed at Cortonwood Colliery, near New Wombwell, died from the effects of accidentally drinking carbolic acid. It appears that on the previous day he drank out of a bottle of home-made ginger beer, leaving half of it, which he took in the cellar to hide it from the children, placing it by the side of a bottle of carbolic acid. He subsequently went to finish the ginger beer, but by mistake drank the acid.

## NOTTINGHAM.

**THE FORGED ORDER.**—The two men, Job Rackham and Frank Lewis, charged with obtaining goods from Mrs. White, chemist, 131 Wilford Road, by means of a forged order (see THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, June 25) have been committed for trial, bail being granted.

## SHEFFIELD.

**FIRE.**—An alarming fire commenced on Saturday last on the premises of the Sheffield Chemical Company, at Attercliffe, a tank of naphtha taking fire, owing, it is believed, to the intense heat of the sun. It was quickly subdued by means of ashes.

**ANOTHER CARBOLIC ACID MISTAKE.**—On Sunday last a widow, named Fanny Smith, about fifty-two years of age, went to the house of Mr. Travis, Henry Street, to assist in the preparations for the interment of Mrs. Travis, who had died during the previous night. Mr. Travis lived next to the shop of Mr. Lord, pawnbroker, and Mr. Travis, or some of his household, had sent to Mrs. Lord to ask her if she had any chloride of lime for disinfecting purposes. Mrs. Lord had not, but sent to Mr. Horsefield, the chemist, and obtained a shilling bottle of Calvert's carbolic acid. She poured some of the acid into a bottle which Mr. Travis had sent, and gave it with instructions to put a quantity into a saucer and place it in the room. The bottle which contained the acid was a small one, and when Mrs. Smith went to the house of Mr. Travis, he was upstairs, and shouted down to her and told her to "get a sup of brandy," which was in a bottle. Mrs. Smith, by mistake, poured a quantity of the carbolic acid into a glass and drank it. Discovering her error, she shouted to Mr. Travis, who ran off for Dr. Cobban, but the former was in such a flurried state that he was unable to give a proper explanation of what had happened. Dr. Cobban immediately proceeded to the house, but before he could administer an emetic the poor woman was convulsed and in a comatose state. Dr. Cobban had her removed to the hospital in a cab, where the stomach pump was applied, and sub-cutaneous injections administered. Mrs. Smith expired about an hour after she drank the carbolic acid.

At an inquest held the next day the circumstances were fully detailed and Mr. Bagshawe, the deputy-coroner, in summing up pointed out that Travis had just lost his wife, and that any negligence on his part in not remembering that the poison was on the chimney-piece was excusable. There had been a certain amount of carelessness, perhaps, on his part, and on the part of the deceased herself, but there was no culpable act. The jury arrived at a verdict that the deceased



had died having been accidentally poisoned by a dose of carbolic acid taken by herself. The deputy-coroner remarked that he hoped Mr. Lord would not give carbolic acid away again without putting a label on the bottle. It was very kind of him to do a neighbourly act. Mr. Lord said if he had kept a chemist's shop he would have put a label on the bottle. He was simply doing what he could for a neighbour, and with the best intentions.

#### TAUNTON.

**HITTING BACK.**—The following is a copy of a lithographed circular issued by Mr. A. J. Smith, of the North Street Pharmacy, accompanying a price list:—

"DR. SIR,—Herewith I beg to hand you my net cash price-list which I have had prepared to meet modern views of cash payments.

"Prices being equal, I feel confident the public would prefer to obtain their medicines (either patent or otherwise) from a duly-qualified chemist, who has been specially trained to the work by education and experience and who has had his fitness proved by examination, rather than from grocers, oilmen, storekeepers, and others, who, being totally ignorant of the nature of the business which they are usurping, have in consequence to place entire trust in a class of manufacturers who make it a special feature to supply such tradespeople, and thus, in very many instances, a far greater profit is acquired on a low than on a high quality article, although it may bear the appearance of cheapness.

"The dispensing of physicians' prescriptions is undoubtedly the most important feature of a chemist's business, and I would take this opportunity of pointing out that every prescription entrusted to my care passes through my own hands and receives my personal attention.

"I feel sure the prices quoted in the accompanying list will bear favourable comparison with any *bona-fide* store list published, and considering the intricate skill necessary for the proper storage, &c., of drugs, so that the virtues of the various articles should be thoroughly retained (knowledge such as only a qualified and experienced pharmacist is capable of exercising), I trust that my appeal for a large share of the support which at the present time I have reason to fear is diverted to a large extent into other channels, will not be in vain."

#### WOLVERHAMPTON.

**SUICIDE OF A CHEMIST.**—Mr. E. B. Thorncroft (deputy-coroner) held an inquest on July 2 at Princes End, respecting the death of Stephen Hopkins (70), chemist, late of 83 High Street, Princes End. It appears that the deceased had latterly been very low-spirited, and had complained of pains in his stomach and head. On Friday morning, about ten minutes to eight o'clock, he called his brother Henry, and remarked, "I have taken some of that stuff," pointing to a paper containing some Battle's vermin-killer. Deceased's son, William Disney Hopkins, administered an emetic which took effect, and another stronger emetic, and Mr. Charles Stevens, surgeon, was called in. Deceased appeared to have somewhat recovered, but he collapsed and died at twenty minutes to nine o'clock. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed suicide whilst in a state of temporary insanity.

#### SCOTLAND.

##### EDINBURGH.

It is reported that the Leith Depôt (Limited) do not intend to prosecute the appeal of which they gave notice, but to accept the sheriff's decision and reconstitute the firm on another basis, which, they believe, will bring them into consonance with the law on the point at issue in the late prosecution.

**L.D.S. SINE CURRICULO.**—The Royal College of Surgeons of this city have given notice that they will close their doors to *sine curriculo* men for the dental examination after the end of next year. It is nearly ten years since the privilege was granted. Glasgow is expected to follow the example of Edinburgh in this matter. Any chemists who wish the degree should look sharp.

**CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.**—The prize committee of this association have again made arrangements for two examinations next session, as the result of which prizes to the value of about 5*l.* will be awarded to the successful apprentices. The "Association" examination is in English, arithmetic, Latin (chiefly medical), chemistry, and pharmacy; it resembles, in fact, the Jacob Bell Scholarship examination so far as these subjects are concerned. The first prize entitles the holder to free instruction in chemistry for a University winter session. The "Ainslie Pharmacy" examination is in prescription Latin and pharmacy on the lines of the Minor. This examination was suggested by Mr. William Ainslie, a late examiner of the Pharmaceutical Society, as a means of inciting apprentices to study those theoretical and practical details of pharmacy which are apt to be overlooked in the rush for examinations, but which are of great importance from a business point of view. The principal prize offered is one by Mr. Ainslie himself, consisting of a guinea's worth of books. Hitherto the examinations have been very successful, and all that is required to maintain the success is for every apprentice of the association to do his best to secure a prize.

The second botanical excursion was accomplished on Wednesday morning. About a dozen members went by the 5.50 train to Craigleith Station, and searched the neighbourhood. The absence of many of the usual leaders was felt by the younger members, who freely expressed the opinion that the promoters of these excursions should practise what they preach. The weather was very fine.

**PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.**—The voting papers for the election of the North British Branch Executive have now been issued. The following are the names of persons eligible and willing for election:—

- \*1. Ainslie, William, 58 George Street, Edinburgh
- \*2. Boa, Peter, 119 George Street, Edinburgh
- \*3. Clark, W. Inglis, 104 South Canongate, Edinburgh
4. Fisher, John Hutchison, 66 High Street, Dunfermline
5. Foster, John, 225 Sanchiehall Street, Glasgow
6. Fraser, Jonathan Innes, 13 Dundas Street, Edinburgh
- \*7. Frazer, Daniel, 127 Buchanan Street, Glasgow
- \*8. Gibson, Adam, Leven
- \*9. Gilmour, William, Elm Row, Edinburgh
- \*10. Hardie, James Miller, 68 High Street, Dundee
- \*11. Kermath, William Ramsay, 73 Market Street, St. Andrews
- \*12. Kinninmont, Alexander, 69 South Portland Street, Glasgow
13. Lawrence, Samuel, 101 George Street, Oban
- \*14. Maben, Thomas, 5 Oliver Street, Hawick
- \*15. Mackay, George Duncan, Canning Street, Edinburgh
- \*16. Mackenzie, James, 45 Forrest Road, Edinburgh
- \*17. Nesbit, John, 162 High Street, Portobello
18. Paterson, James, 133 Gallowgate, Aberdeen
19. Robertson, William, 94 High Street, Elgin
20. Stephenson, John Bertram, 48 Frederick Street, Edinburgh
- \*21. Storrar, David, 228 High Street, Kirkealdy
- \*22. Strachan, Alexander, 138 Rosemount Place, Aberdeen
23. Thompson, Thomas, 35 George Street, Edinburgh
- \*24. Watt, James, sen., High Street, Haddington

A meeting of the members and associates in business of the Society residing in Scotland will be held in the Society's house, 36 York Place, on Wednesday, July 13, at 12 noon precisely, when the result of the election will be announced.

##### GLASGOW.

**EMBEZZLEMENT.**—John Smyth, who had been manager of the Errol Chemical Company, has been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment on a charge of breach of trust and embezzlement or theft.

**CHILDREN POISONED.**—A sad case of poisoning occurred at Thomas King's cooper's shop, Cogan Street, Pollockshaws, on Tuesday evening. A number of empty barrels from Thornliebank Printfield Works, near Glasgow, had been unloaded at the shop, containing bi-arsenate, a composition of arsenic acid and soda, which the children mistook for alum, and carried a quantity away with them, the result being that they were poisoned. Two of them succumbed from the effects.

##### ORKNEY.

**DR. WALLACE,** Edinburgh, who was officiating for the resident doctor of Sanday, was found dead in bed on the

\* Members of the retiring executive.



morning of Friday, July 1. Before retiring he is said to have remarked that he was going to take a sleeping draught, and upon a friend calling on him next morning he found him dead.

#### WISHAW.

**FATAL EXPLOSION IN A CHEMIST'S SHOP.**—A serious explosion occurred on Friday, July 1, in the chemist and druggist's shop of Mr. Thomas B. McFarlane, Main Street, whereby his assistant, Walter Davidson (18), was seriously, and in the result fatally, injured, and John King, apprentice, was also very seriously injured. It appears that Mr. McFarlane sent the last named into the back shop to fill some bottles of methylated spirits out of a tin barrel holding five gallons. Shortly afterwards Walter Davidson went to assist, but just as he entered the back shop an explosion occurred. This explosion knocked the end out of the tin barrel, and the spirits catching fire, the shop was soon in a blaze. When got out both the young men were taken into the consulting-room, and were found to be very severely burned. Davidson was dreadfully scorched about the face, hands, feet, and body. Drs. James and Robert Livingston, Dr. Cowan, and Dr. Duff were in immediate attendance, and after an examination they pronounced Davidson's case to be all but hopeless; but about two o'clock the ambulance waggon was brought, and he was taken to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where about six o'clock he expired, and was never able to speak. The boy King was taken home in a cab, but his injuries were such that he has not been able to make any explanation. As there was neither fire nor gas lit in the room, a match had evidently been struck, and the spirits thereby ignited. Meanwhile every effort was made to extinguish the fire. The burgh hose was soon on the ground, and there being plenty of water, the fire was soon got under, the damage being somewhere about 10%.

#### FRENCH PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

M. CHEVREUL will next month be 101 years old. His family and friends intend to celebrate his birthday, but the old chemist desires that no public demonstration be made on the occasion.

DR. GRANCHER has been elected a member of the *Comité consultatif d'Hygiène publique*. The committee is quite a power in the land, and is understood to hold in its hand the fate of pharmaceutical legislation now pending before Parliament.

DR. AUGUSTE OLLIVIER was on July 5 elected a member of the Academy of Medicine for the section of public hygiene. Dr. Ollivier is a Fellow of the Paris Faculty, a physician to the Hôpital des Enfants, and a member of the Council of Public Hygiene and Salubrity of the Department of the Seine.

THE herbalists are losing no time in their efforts to secure favourable legislation. On June 26 the report of Deputy Vergoin on the Bill regulating *herboristerie* was by the President of the House of Deputies ordered to be printed and distributed. The dealers in botanical medicines have a very strong popular support, and seem determined not to be suppressed if they can help it.

THE SWEATING-SICKNESS EPIDEMIC still prevails in Poitou. The sudor Anglicus, or *sucette miliaire*, as the French call it, after an apparent abating has broken out again, and spread in the departments of Indre, Vienne, and Charente, to such an extent that military authorities have suspended all furloughs to young men belonging to these districts. Doctors are still obliged to confess their ignorance respecting many features of a disease which dates almost from the Middle Ages, but they hope, with the new means of scientific investigation now at their disposal, to clear up some obscure points in the history of the epidemic, its origin, and propagation.

A FORGERY AGAINST PASTEUR.—A singular occurrence was reported at a recent meeting of the Academy of Medicine. A letter purporting to be signed by Prof. Tommasi, of the Naples Royal Academy, and presented last

February by Dr. Peter to the French Academy, now turns out to be a forgery. The letter was against Pasteur's doctrines, and probably for this reason had been entrusted to Dr. Peter, a well known opponent of the great inoculator. Dr. Peter is held blameless in the matter, but quite a storm occurred in the Naples Academy respecting the paternity of the fraudulent communication. The letter in question was not published in the *Bulletin* of the French Academy, but the original has been kept in its archives.

#### THE PARIS PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

THE usual monthly meeting was held on Wednesday. On the meeting being called to order, Perpetual Secretary Planchon made an informal communication respecting the *prospects of military pharmacists*. He said a change for the better had taken place. In several instances amendments to the Army Bill now before Parliament, indirectly recognising army pharmacists, had been accepted, and there was good reason to hope for a final recognition of the pharmacists' claim. M. Marty was of opinion that the new Minister of War is better disposed towards the profession than the fallen incumbent was. He felt assured that audiences would now be granted by the new Minister and personal attention paid to authorised delegations, which formerly were denied a hearing and referred to subordinates. Taken altogether, the impression prevails that with a change of Ministry there has been a change of policy, to the advantage of military pharmacists.

M. Lextrait, a "chef des travaux chimiques" at one of the college laboratories, made an interesting communication on one of the components of *oil of thyme*—that is, the hydrocarbon left behind when thymol has been dissolved out by means of caustic alkalies. For chemical reasons too long to be detailed here, he considers the substance an isomer of *carvaerol*, and other like compounds, from which it can readily be differentiated by various chemical reactions.

M. De Vrij, with whom Paris air appears to agree, judging from his looks, rose to modify an assertion he had formerly made before the Society. He said he had, at another meeting, stated that only heavy *sulphate of quinine* could be pure, and that very light sulphate contained cinchonidine. He now wanted to correct this proposition, as he was satisfied that pure sulphate of quinine can be obtained in very light feather-like crystals. As a demonstration he presented two specimens of chemically pure sulphate of quinine, one heavy and the other light. There was the same weight of each, five grammes, and yet one specimen filled a vial four or five times as large as the other.

M. Marty, summing up the communication, said that from the foregoing we must conclude that formerly Dr. De Vrij held that only heavy quinine could be pure, and now he owns light quinine also may be pure.

M. Colin made a communication on *butter analysis*. He is of opinion that the presence or absence of crystals visible under the microscope is no longer a good criterion of the purity of butter. At present manufacturers of margarine, "dans," "graisse alimentaire," and such butter substitutes, have found a way to prevent their products from crystallising on cooling, so that the stuff examined under the microscope looks just as smooth as genuine butter. But there is another and better way observed by M. Colin to detect the adulteration, and this consists in melting the fatty substance at a gentle heat and stirring it with a needle or graver. As margarine and all like products contain animal fibres and filaments, these are caught around the steel utensil, and easily identified under the microscope. Sometimes very long conjunctive filaments are thus most easily detected in artificial butter, while none are ever found in the genuine. All these organic *débris* are the remains of the mechanical processes which manufacturers employ for extracting animal fats. M. Prunier suggested that as soon as makers of artificial butter hear of this new and simple test, they are sure to modify their processes in such a way as to remove all animal fibres and filaments—a wise opinion from which no one dissented.

M. Marc Boymond showed a stain caused by *chromhidrosis*, or coloured sweat. It was on a baby's blanket, and had been produced by a child thirty days old. The stain was deep indigo blue in the centre with green and purple irradiations. The presence of indigotine in urine is occasionally observed, but in sweat very seldom.



## Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

### COUNCIL MEETING.

THE Council met on Wednesday under the presidency of Mr. Michael Carteighe. The other members present when he took the chair at 11.10 were Messrs. Allen, Atkins, Baildon, Bottle, Cross, Evans, Gostling, Hampson, Hills, Newsholme, Radley, Richardson, Robbins, Savage, Symes, and Woolley. The Secretary at once commenced to read the minutes of the last meeting. While this proceeding was going on it was noticeable that conversation amongst the members was much more subdued than usual. After the minutes were signed the President proceeded to read the lists of persons proposed for election as members, &c, when

#### MR. RICHARDSON INTERPOSED

with the question, "Are you not going to take the business as on the agenda paper, Mr. President?" The vacancy in the Council was what Mr. Richardson hinted at, and the question appeared to excite the interest of the members, and for a moment conversation was hushed. Then the President said that, as some of the members were not yet (at 11.25 A.M.) present, he thought it would be fair to wait until they appeared before taking up the election of a member to succeed Mr. Williams. He would, therefore, take the routine business first. In the course of a few minutes the absentees (Messrs. Schacht and Greenish) appeared, and quietly took their seats. (Mr. Southall was not present.) Meanwhile the election of members, associates, &c., was proceeding slowly, and conversation became brisker, the President's ruling evidently having caused some surprise. There were several short consultations between the President, Mr. Hills, and the Secretary, and considerable searching of past transactions before the routine business began to move smoothly. At last it was disposed of, and very quietly

#### THE PROFESSORS WERE RE-ELECTED,

viz., John Attfield, F.R.S., as professor of practical chemistry; Wyndham R. Dunstan, as professor of chemistry; and Theophilus Redwood, as Emeritus professor of chemistry and pharmacy. No appointment to Professor Bentley's post was made, as he retains it until the end of this month, when he becomes Emeritus professor.

#### LOCAL SECRETARIES

were next appointed. The list was a long one, and the President begged to be excused reading it, but Mr. Radley suggested that at least the alterations should be read, at which the President shook his head and remarked in parliamentary style, "I would require notice of the question;" but he added, "there are very few alterations, principally those, indeed, which have been caused through death." It is the custom for members in any locality to vote for the one who holds office. Before the matter was disposed of Mr. Evans asked how it came about that he was put down as local secretary for Llanelly. He had asked the "office" five years ago why there was no local secretary for that town, and the reply was that it did not return a member of Parliament. The position was the same still, and yet he found himself proposed; and all he wanted to know, without making any complaint, was why? The President explained that Llanelly might be the name of a parliamentary district, but independent of that there might be three members and associates in business in the town; if so, they would be entitled to a local secretary, and it transpired that this was the case. The next business was the appointment of examiners to conduct

#### THE PRIZE EXAMINATIONS.

For the Council prize examinations (Pereira medal, &c.) Messrs. Ransome and Thresh were proposed. This gave Mr. Symes an opportunity for airing a grievance which country students have grumbled about. The competitors for medals have to go to London or Edinburgh for the examination. Mr. Symes saw no reason why the examination could not be conducted at local centres in the same manner as the Jacob Bell scholarship examination. He was sure that many more men would compete if the alteration were made; but the principal argument which he put forward in support of the

change was that it would add importance to the local centres—a thing they were all desiring to do. The President remarked that the examinations would have to be conducted according to the regulations this year, but he thought that the matter might be considered by the Laboratory Committee, and Mr. Symes said he was contented with that proposal. He knew that on several occasions Liverpool men would have competed for the prizes if the examination had been in Liverpool. Mr. Newsholme said the same thing about Sheffield, and gave his support to Mr. Symes. Thereupon the President said that, as the object of the examination was to create as great rivalry as possible, the matter would have the earnest consideration of the committee, which would report in due course. In reply to Mr. Baildon he said that the arrangements for the Jacob Bell scholarship would be the same as formerly. At this point Mr. Symes remarked that the extension of the local centre principle to the Council prize examinations should give the committee no difficulty, because it had already been recognised in the Jacob Bell examination, when the President applied the cloture with the remark, "You must not argue now, you know: there is something to be said on the other side, and we must not prejudice the committee." After the laugh had subsided Messrs. Blunt and Bowen were appointed to conduct the Jacob Bell scholarship examination.

#### THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

occupied the attention of the Council for a few seconds while the President submitted a motion that superintendents of it should be appointed in certain centres, and that the appointments be offered in the first instance to the local secretaries. In connection with this the secretary tabled a return showing the number of candidates who had sat for the examination at the various centres since January, 1884. Before the members proceeded to fill up

#### THE VACANCY IN THE COUNCIL,

the President read a letter from Professor Bentley thanking the Council for the honour done to him in appointing him Emeritus-Professor of Botany, and a letter was also read from the staff thanking the Council for the Jubilee gift, and expressing appreciation of the manner in which the secretary had distributed the 50%. Then the members braced themselves up for a struggle, and the President metaphorically unfurled his flag by suggesting that the Council should go into committee. "Make the nominations first," remarked Mr. Symes, and, added Mr. Evans in a significant tone, "There is no necessity for going into committee at all. Why should the matter not be reported?" "Just as you please," replied the President, "You require to discuss personal matters in filling up the vacancy, and you know whether that is best done in committee or not." The supporters of secrecy appearing to be resigned to publicity, Mr. Symes got up and moved, "on constitutional grounds," that Mr. N. H. Martin, of Newcastle, who was at the top of the unsuccessful candidates at the last election, should be appointed to fill the vacancy. Thereupon Mr. Schacht inquired what would be done in committee. Mr. Hampson and others also made remarks, and matters becoming somewhat congested, the President at last put the question, "Is it your pleasure to go into committee?" But Mr. Evans threatened an amendment, which caused Mr. Hampson to say that the matter should be settled in proper form. Accordingly Mr. Schacht moved that the Council resolve itself into a committee in order to receive nominations for the vacancy. Mr. Robbins seconded the motion, and Mr. Evans moved an amendment. Mr. Radley rose, apparently to second the amendment, but really to say that it was nonsense to discuss the merits of the question. Here conversation round the table became so general that Mr. Radley was compelled to resume his seat, and for a few minutes matters were at a standstill. The gist of the conversation was directed to getting a clear understanding before going into committee of what was to be done; this was settled by the President putting the vote for those who desired nominations to be taken in committee. The first result was a muddle, seven voting for the motion and seven against it. Another vote was quickly taken, when the following voted for the motion, viz.:—

Messrs. Allen, Gostling, Hills, Newsholme, Robbins, Savage, and Schacht.



The President counted seven, when some one cried "Eight," and at last the President spotted Mr. Greenish as the eighth supporter of privacy. Then for the amendment there voted: Messrs. Baidon, Cross, Evans, Hampson, Richardson, and Symes.

The President, and Messrs. Atkins, Bottle, Radley, and Woolley did not vote. The vote was a half-hearted affair, some of the supporters of the motion showing a lack of boldness in holding up their hands. Immediately the vote was taken the President requested the reporters to withdraw, but Mr. Symes thought that was not necessary. They were often present during important discussions, and no harm had resulted. The President said, however, that this was a matter which was left to his discretion, and he thought it necessary that reporters should withdraw, which they did at 12 o'clock, and were not called back until 12.50, by which time

#### THE VACANCY WAS FILLED UP

by the appointment of Mr. E. Northway Butt. The President stated that a ballot had been taken in committee with the following result:—

	Votes
For Mr. Butt .. .. .	14
" Martin .. .. .	4
" Watt .. .. .	1

To complete the arrangement Mr. Bottle moved, and Mr. Symes seconded, that Mr. Butt's name be added to various committees.

#### ROUTINE BUSINESS

was then resumed by the Secretary reading the reports of various committees. The first, on *Finance*, showed that the income last month had been exceptionally large owing to examination fees having been paid in, and over 2,000*l.* had been paid out, this including 650*l.* to the builder of the Examination Hall, and monthly and quarterly payments to officers. The committee recommended that 3,000*l.* worth of stocks should be disposed of in order to meet any requirements for building purposes, and that 1,000*l.* be set aside for payment this month. In moving the adoption of the report, the President said, in reference to the Examination Hall, that about 2,500*l.* had already been paid out of income to the contractors, and as the bulk of the income of the Society came in during the earlier part of the year, it was necessary to sell out 3,000*l.* worth of stock now. More would be required later on. In reply to Mr. Richardson, he stated that there was sufficient money invested in stocks (about 20,000*l.*) to cover the cost of the buildings without touching the ground rents. Mr. Evans asked, as a new member of the Council, how much the new buildings would cost, and the President repeated his annual meeting reply—"A little over 6,000*l.*," with about a thousand for extras. This did not satisfy Mr. Evans, who now asked, "Will the buildings cost ten, twenty, or thirty thousand pounds?" and the President clotured him by referring him to the last reports of the Building Committee. The *Benevolent Fund Committee* in their report recommended two grants of 10*l.* each, which were agreed to. One case was deferred until next meeting. In connection with the Jubilee gifts to annuitants, the Secretary reported generally that all the recipients had expressed most hearty thanks—the 5*l.* seemed just to fit in with special wants. (Laughter.) He read a characteristic letter from one annuitant who was elected in 1865. This gentleman is now ninety years of age, and in the course of his epistle mentioned that he remembered the Jubilee of George III. The quarterly payments to annuitants were ordered. The report of the *L. L. M. & H. Committee*, in addition to usual details, stated that the committee had arranged with Mr. E. M. Holmes, curator of the museum, to give the demonstrations in materia medica, these to take the place of the lectures hitherto delivered by Professor Bentley. It was also proposed to advertise for a teacher of botany. The President, in moving the adoption of this report, said that the committee authorised to make arrangements for the teaching of botany and materia medica had had several meetings, and had arranged with Mr. Holmes to give the necessary demonstrations in the latter subject. It was proposed to advertise for a professor of botany, and the committee expected to report the result at the next meeting. A question regarding the position of the materia medica lecturer having arisen, this and other matters were considered in committee. On resuming, the report was adopted.

The report of the *Law and Parliamentary Committee* was next read. It stated, amongst other matters, that in consequence of Sir Walter Foster's objections to that portion of the Pharmacy Bill which refers to *materia medica*, the President and solicitor had been deputed to draft an amendment which would meet the objections. In submitting the report for the approval of the Council, the President stated that the Bill had not made any progress during last month, but he thought that it would receive favourable consideration at the end of this month. The report of the General Purposes Committee, which referred to cases of infringement of the Pharmacy Act, was then read in committee. On resuming, the President informed the Council of the success of the Society in the case against the individual members of the Leith Dépôt (Limited), and against their unqualified assistants for selling poisons. The importance of the sheriff's judgment was referred to, and he remarked that "they would wait the result of the appeal with a certain amount of interest." The secretary then reported the results of last month's examinations (9 Majors examined and 6 passed; 64 Minors examined and 34 passed, and 12 certificates accepted in lieu of the Preliminary). Mr. Ince wrote inquiring if he could give certificates to his deserving pupils, and the matter was referred to committee.

This was all the business.

#### CONTINENTAL NOTES.

**COD-LIVER OIL SUBSTITUTE.**—According to the *Monde Pharmaceutique*, Dr. Senator, of Berlin, recommends the following powder as advantageously replacing cod-liver oil in chronic diseases accompanied by wasting of tissues:—Spermaceti, 1 part; powdered sugar, 3 parts. Mix, and flavour to taste. This is stated to be taken without any repugnance, and to be readily assimilated, and, further, is peculiarly adapted to the treatment of infantile complaints.

**THYMOL AS AN ANTHELMINTIC.**—Dr. Numa Campi, in a recent number of the *Raccoglitore Medico*, draws attention to the tæniifuge properties of this body. He administers it in the following manner:—The patient takes 20 grammes of castor-oil at night, and commences in the morning to take 8 grammes of thymol divided into twelve doses, one every quarter-hour, followed after the last dose by 20 grammes of castor-oil; the tænia was expelled at the end of the third hour. It has also been employed amongst the St. Gothard miners for the destruction of the parasite of the duodenum (*ankylostoma duodenale*).

**PROPOSED NEW DUTIES ON DRUGS IMPORTED INTO ITALY.**—The duties are to be increased thus:—Acetic acid to pay 50 lire the 100 kilos. instead of 10 lire; impure caustic soda raised from 50 centimes to 350; salts of quinine from 5 lire to 10 lire per kilo.; oxide of zinc from 2 lire to 5 lire; carbonates of soda and potash from 0.50 to 3.50; calcined magnesia from 20 lire to 50 lire; ordinary soap 8 lire instead of 6 lire; glycerine augmented from 30 to 60 lire; perfumery, alcoholic or otherwise, from 660 to 100 lire. On the other hand, mineral oil duties to be reduced from 27 lire to 10 lire; chicory from 20 to 15 lire; common sponges, now paying 20 lire, to enter free, but the duty on trimmed and prepared goods to increase from 20 to 25 lire.

**ACONITINE PILLS.**—Aconitine is the most popular French remedy for neuralgia. The well-known pills of Dr. Moussette, which contain aconitine in combination with quinine, have a well-sustained reputation and command a very large sale in France and in South America. The anti-neuralgic pills sold in most pharmacies are generally based upon this formula; some, however, prefer the granules of aconitine alone, containing  $\frac{1}{2}$  milligramme of crystallised aconitine, the amorphous form being found not so certain in its action. Of these the dose is one every four hours. At the commencement no more than four should be given in twenty-four hours, but the dose is gradually increased until eight granules are taken in the same period. Another formula in use is that of M. Duquesnel, whose pills contain  $\frac{1}{2}$  milligramme of nitrate of aconitine with 10 centigrammes of bromide of quinine in each, and are given as above directed.



## Legal Reports.

### THE PHARMACY ACT.

#### CONVICTION OF THE SHAREHOLDERS IN A LIMITED DRUG COMPANY.

THE prosecution by Richard Brémridge (for the Pharmaceutical Society) of the shareholders in the Leith Dépôt (Limited), which was commenced on Monday, June 27, as reported last week, was resumed on Thursday, June 30, Sheriff Rutherford, in whose Summary Court the action was brought, having taken time to consider the arguments raised against the relevancy of some of the charges. The defendants were Andrew W. Gray, Andrew Gray, William Taylor, Jane Maria Gray, David Owens, James Fettes, and Marjory F. J. Fettes, and they were charged that they did unlawfully, and in contravention of the 1st and 15th sections of the said recited Act, take, use, or exhibit the name or title of "Chemist and Druggist," and also that they did unlawfully issue to the public printed circulars, labels, and advertisements having the words "Chemists and Druggists" printed or written thereon, none of the said defendants being a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist, or a chemist and druggist within the meaning of the Act. Certain other charges, all fully set out in our report last week, were made against certain of the defendants.

Mr. Shaw, advocate, instructed by Mr. P. Morison, S.S.C., appeared for the complainer; and Mr. Orr, advocate, instructed by Messrs. Wishart & Macnaughton, W.S., for the defenders.

#### THURSDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

##### THE RELEVANCY OF THE COMPLAINT.

The Sheriff said: In this case I had the benefit of a very able argument from my brother counsel on either side; but as the question raised appeared to be attended with some difficulty, and as it was undoubtedly of general importance, I thought it better to continue the case until to day, that I might have an opportunity of further considering the matter. The complaint is founded upon the Pharmacy Act of 1868, which proceeds upon the preamble, *inter alia*, that it is expedient for the safety of the public that persons known as chemists and druggists should possess a competent practical knowledge of their business; and that further, after the date herein named (December 31, 1868), all persons not already engaged in such business shall, before commencing such business, be duly examined as to their practical knowledge, and that a register should be kept as herein provided. It is by the first section of the statute enacted that from and after December 31, 1868, it shall be unlawful for any person to assume or use the title "Chemist," or "Druggist," or "Pharmaceutical Chemist," or "Dispensing Chemist" or "Druggist," unless such person shall be duly qualified within the meaning of this Act. The fifteenth section provides that from and after December 31, 1868, any person who shall take, use, or exhibit the name or title of "Chemist and Druggist," not being a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, shall be liable in a penalty of 5*l.*, as provided by the Act. Founding on these statutory enactments, the Registrar under the Pharmacy Acts is empowered to prosecute for the recovery of penalties, and has accordingly presented this complaint, with the concurrence of the Procurator Fiscal, against the seven individuals named in the first charge. The complaint is that these persons who are mentioned "did all, or each, or one or more of them take, use, or exhibit the name or title of 'Chemists and Druggists' at 49 Leith Walk and 33 Ferry Road, occupied by them as Leith Dépôt (Limited), of which they are the sole partners or shareholders, and none of the said partners being duly registered." On the part of the respondents, objection had been taken to the relevancy of the charge, which, it was maintained on their behalf, should have been directed against the Leith Dépôt (Limited), and not against them as individuals; because none of the respondents were alleged to have as individuals assumed the title of "Chemists and Druggists," but merely to have used or exhibited that title in connection with the premises occupied by the company. I must assume, in so far as this particular charge is concerned, that none of the respondents did assume

the title of "Chemists and Druggists" in their individual capacity; they did not put it on their visiting cards or on the door-plates of their dwellings. But then the fifteenth section, in order to constitute a statutory offence, does not require that a person must take, use, or exhibit the title "Chemist and Druggist" in his individual character or in connection with his own name. I am of opinion that it is sufficient to cover a libel if partners and shareholders in a company of this kind, none of them having a qualification, assume the title in connection with the business carried on in the name of their firm or company. It must be kept in view that the leading purpose of the legislature in the provisions of the Act was the safety of the public, and with that end in view it was deemed expedient that persons known as chemists and druggists should possess a competent practical knowledge of their business. But if no one of the partners in a business of this kind required to be a duly qualified chemist and druggist, the purpose of the Act would be manifestly easily defeated. There would be nothing to prevent any seven persons setting up business for the sale of poisons or drugs in the name of a company registered under the Companies Act, and having the designation "Chemists and Druggists." They would by this device of uniting themselves into a company evade the Act in such a way as no single individual could possibly do. It has been decided—and I must assume rightly—in the case cited, that of the Pharmaceutical Society against the London Provincial Supply Association, that the word "person" in the fifteenth section of the Act does not include a corporation, the reason being that it is not possible for a corporation to qualify. A corporation cannot offer itself for examination and go through the other preliminaries required by the statute, and it was accordingly held that any prosecution for penalties must be instituted, not against a body corporate, but against the individual offenders. But the very fact that a company cannot qualify shows conclusively to my mind that the title "Chemist and Druggist," either assumed in connection with the name of a company or a business carried on by a company, could only be assumed by individual shareholders who could get a statutory qualification, or at all events by some of their number; and that this prosecution has, therefore, been properly directed against them. It has been said that this view is contrary to the opinions expressed by some of the noble and learned lords in the case to which I have referred, but so far from this being so, it is only carrying the opinions of their lordships to a just and logical conclusion. A great deal of light is thrown on the case of the London Provincial Supply Association by turning to the reports of what was done in its prior stages, first in the Queen's Bench Division, and afterwards in the Court of Appeal. The judgment of the latter court was confirmed in the House of Lords, but the decision of the Court of Appeal, after it had been confirmed, would have led to the result that no corporation could carry on the business of chemist and druggist, even supposing they were all qualified; and it was, I think, in connection with that view of the matter, and by way of deprecating that result, that the Lord Chancellor and the House of Lords expressed themselves as they did in those passages of their opinion which were founded on by the counsel for the respondents in the present case. This was manifestly a very different case. It must be directed not against a company, but against individuals, and that is what the prosecutor had done. I therefore repel the objection to the first charge. A similar objection had been stated to the second charge, and I will deal with it in a similar manner. I wish to point out that the second charge is this, "that the parties named did unlawfully and in contravention of the said Act issue to the public printed circulars, labels, &c." What does this mean? There is a want of specification here. It could hardly be maintained that it is an offence under the statute to print the words "Chemists and Druggists" upon a blank piece of paper, and that persons disseminating that in any number throughout the country were liable for anything. It ought to be stated that it was in connection with a business carried on.

Mr. Shaw said that he would add that.

The Sheriff: It was objected for the respondents that the third and fourth charges had not been brought within the period of six months laid down by the thirteenth section of Act of 1852. I am of opinion that this objection is well



founded, and I therefore sustain the objection to the third and fourth charges. The fifth charge was not objected to, and the sixth was withdrawn. I now proceed to hear the evidence on the first, second, and fifth charges.

Mr. Orr: And the separate complaint against Thompson.

The Sheriff: There is no objection stated.

Mr. Orr: I would intimate at this point an appeal upon the question of relevancy.

#### EVIDENCE FOR THE PROSECUTION.

The first witness called was Robert McGregor, Deputy Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Parliament Square, who produced the register book, and in reply to Mr. Shaw stated that appended to the name of Andrew W. Gray were the words "wholesale chemist and druggist," and after David Ovens' designation "chemist's assistant." The shares, he said, were apportioned as follows:—Andrew W. Gray, 40; Andrew Gray, 120; Jane Maria Gray, 430; David Ovens, 3; James Fettes, 2; Marjory Fettes, 4; and William Taylor, 1.

John Rutherford Hill, chemist, and assistant secretary to the Pharmaceutical Society in Edinburgh, produced a register of the statutory registered chemists and druggists for the year 1886 and 1887, and in none of these appeared the names of any of the respondents. Proceeding, he said that he had passed the shops of the Leith Depôt (Limited) in Ferry Road and Leith Walk, and on these occasions he had seen signboards exhibited above the door bearing the inscription, "Chemists and Druggists, Tea Merchants, and Sponge Importers." The word "Wholesale" prefixed these. He identified a number of circulars, business cards, and price-lists which had been issued by the respondents, and which bore the title "Wholesale Chemists and Druggists." He sent a lad named Alexander Coats to purchase a quantity of poison at the Depôt on one occasion, and the messenger lifted two of the circulars from off the counter, where they were lying in bundles.

Mr. Shaw: It is stated in this price-list that the new shop is under the management of a thoroughly qualified pharmaceutical chemist of great and varied experience in Ireland and Scotland. Is that statement correct?

Witness: I know there is no qualified chemist in the premises.

Mr. Orr: Is that from your own knowledge?

Witness: It is from my own knowledge. I sent Coats to the Depôt for laudanum, and saw Ovens supply him from a bottle which he took from a shelf at his back. I know Ovens by sight. I saw him make the sale of the poison, and Coats gave the bottle to me as soon as he emerged from the shop.

Mr. Shaw: You have the laudanum?

Witness: Here it is. I found it to be "Laudanum," a preparation of opium, and poison. "Laudanum" is in writing, and below on the label is the word "poison." On May 18 I instructed Coats to go to the Depôt and purchase oxalic acid. He brought it back to me, and this is it which I now produce. It is labelled "Oxalic acid," and after analysing it I found it to be what it represents.

Mr. Shaw: Here is a cork with the stamp, "Leith Depôt (Limited), Chemists," upon it. Where did you get that?

Witness: I picked it up in a chemist's shop in Leith. I know that similar corks are used in the dispensing business. I picked several up in various shops in Leith.

Mr. Orr: You say that the statement in the price-list that the "new Depôt is under the management of a thoroughly qualified pharmaceutical chemist" is not correct, and that "none but qualified chemists are employed in the dispensing departments."

Witness: I believe that statement to be untrue.

Mr. Orr: Is it within your knowledge that they employ no qualified men at Leith Walk?

Witness: They employ qualified men, so far as I know. —Nicholas Dodds at the Leith Walk shop and Henry Forewell at the Ferry Road.

Mr. Orr: What about Mr. Bembridge?

Witness: I don't know one of that name.

Mr. Orr: Can you tell me whether the respondents ever had more than one qualified man at the Ferry Road?

Witness: I don't know.

Mr. Orr: You instructed Coats to make the purchases you speak of both at Leith Walk?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Orr: That was for the purpose of making a case against the respondents—setting a trap to catch them, in fact?

Mr. Sheriff: That is done every day under the Public Health Act.

Mr. Orr: But the question is as to its legality. You peeped through the glass door and saw Coats supplied?

Witness: Yes; I saw Ovens supply the laudanum, but there was no qualified man in the shop at the time.

Mr. Orr: You swear that?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Orr: Are you aware that the dispensing portion of the shop cannot be seen from the outside, as it is enclosed?

Witness: I saw no qualified man in the place.

Mr. Orr: It is quite a customary thing for apprentices in chemists' shops to supply laudanum in this way.

Witness: They might do it. I have no doubt it has happened.

Mr. Orr: You saw no one in the shop but the assistant and Coats?

Witness: And a lady.

Mr. Orr: Do you know of what the staff consisted then?

Witness: Gray, Ovens, and Dodds. I instructed Coats to buy the oxalic acid. It is the practice in some shops of keeping pennyworths of oxalic acid made up in packets. People don't need any prescriptions for it. Pennyworths are sold by drysalters and grocers, I believe.

Mr. Orr: There are about 200 grocers in Edinburgh selling it every day for cleaning purposes.

Witness: I am not aware that it is done in Edinburgh.

Mr. Orr: Then you have not been attending sufficiently to your duties in that respect. Where did you get this cork?

Witness: I found it in Mr. Coats' shop in the Tolbooth Wynd, Leith. I don't know how he became possessed of it. That is the only cork I have seen.

Mr. Orr: Are you acquainted with any wholesale chemists who are not qualified?

Witness: So far as I know they are all qualified.

Mr. Orr: You know there are many wholesale chemists not qualified.

Witness: I cannot say whether they are qualified or no. My information is that they are.

Mr. Shaw: From what you have seen of this business, it is retail?

Witness: Decidedly.

Alexander Coats, medical student, said that he remembered being supplied by Ovens with laudanum, and he also purchased oxalic acid from the Depôt.

Evidence was then read as to the advertisements published by the Leith Depôt (Limited) and the printing of circulars and labels for the business to the order of Mr. Andrew W. Gray.

#### EVIDENCE FOR THE DEFENCE.

Wharton Thomson, examined by Mr. Orr, stated that he served his apprenticeship in a mixed store in Skipton, and that he afterwards went to Leeds to manage a drug store. He was next with Messrs. Inman, Edinburgh, and went to the Leith Depôt Company's service about two months ago. Witness was in the patent medicine department, and when he was engaged Mr. Gray told him that he was to have nothing to do with the dispensing department or with the sale of poisons. When prescriptions came in he took them into the dispensing department, where there was a qualified man. The dispensing department was kept quite separate, and the laudanum was kept there.

Mr. Shaw: Witness had never been with any regular chemist. He never intended to pass as a chemist, and had gone in for no examinations.

David Ovens said he was employed in the Leith Walk shop. He had served his apprenticeship with Mr. Gunn, pharmaceutical chemist, Duns, and was afterwards in the service of the Liverpool Apothecaries' Company till 1886. Witness was employed by Mr. Gray in the wholesale and retail of drugs and patent medicines. In November last the company was formed into a limited company, to allow them to dispense prescriptions, and a qualified chemist was engaged.

Mr. Shaw: He was not a pharmaceutical chemist nor a chemist and druggist under the Act.

Henry Forewell said that he was a pharmaceutical chemist, and that he had been in business for himself in Dublin. He was next in the Army and Navy Stores in London, where he



checked all the poisons that were dispensed. The *Dépôt* at Leith did a very extensive wholesale trade.

This concluded the evidence, and the Court then rose.

#### FRIDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

On resuming, counsel were heard for the complainers and the respondents. Mr. Shaw, after an able résumé of the chief points brought out in the evidence, held that he had proved his case, and asked that the full penalties provided by the statute should be inflicted.

Mr. Orr set up the defence that the title used by the *Dépôt* was "Wholesale Chemists and Druggists," and not "Chemists and Druggists." He further maintained that Forewell was a duly qualified pharmaceutical chemist, having taken his degree in Ireland.

The Sheriff remarked that the register referred to was for Great Britain. It did not apply to Ireland. But he would take it as regarded Dodds and Forewell that they were qualified, but not with respect to the others.

Mr. Orr said they had qualified men in the shops, and there was consequently no wilful defiance of the law. Precisely the same thing applied to every chemist's shop.

The Sheriff: I had occasion in a case recently to express an opinion as to a practice of qualified chemists and druggists going out at meal hours and leaving their shops in charge of unqualified persons.

#### THE RESPONDENTS CONVICTED.

Sheriff Rutherford, in giving judgment, after again reciting the provisions of the Act, said:—There can be no doubt that the accused, or some of them, used the title "Chemists and Druggists" in connection with this business. It was said, however, that they made use of the title coupled with the word "Wholesale," and that they were not guilty, therefore, of the offence libelled. If that were so, a person calling himself a wholesale chemist and druggist might nevertheless carry on a retail business, dealing in poisons to any extent, inside. It is not a matter of doubt that the respondents carried on a retail business. It is not for me to say what is sufficient or necessary for the protection of the public; I am here to administer the Act. I do not say whether it would be sufficient were duly qualified men employed in the management of the business. The public dealt with these parties on the faith of their being qualified chemists and druggists. Duly qualified assistants might be engaged one day and discharged the next, and then the public were left at the mercy of any person who might be employed. It is not necessary to go into that, or to consider what might and what might not be sufficient for the safety of the public; the question is, whether the statutory offence has been committed by these parties carrying on a retail business as chemists and druggists. I am of opinion that it has. The respondents were all shareholders in the company, but it appeared that the management of the business was given to Andrew W. Gray, who seems to have been the managing partner and takes the leading part. It is true that David Owens, who has three shares, was also employed in one of the shops, but the real manager was Gray; Owens was only a servant, and the other shareholders took no active part in the concern. The interests of justice, and also of the Act, will be sufficiently vindicated by the imposition of a statutory penalty of 5*l.* in the case of Andrew W. Gray, and finding each of the others liable in the modified penalty of 10*s.* As regards the second charge, that has also been proved against Gray and the others mentioned. There can be no doubt that the circulars and advertisements in question were not only in connection with a wholesale business, but there seems to have been a very extensive retail business. Gray is fined 5*l.* and each of the others in the modified penalty of 10*s.* The third and fourth charges have been disposed of. The fifth charge is against one of the shareholders, David Owens, for having sold a quantity of laudanum. It might be that this was not a very frequent occurrence, but it seems that considerable quantities of laudanum had been made by the Leith *Dépôt* (Limited), and that it was not made for the wholesale trade, but to supply their own business. He imposed a modified penalty of 2*l.* and expenses. In the case of Fairweather, who had been brought into court by mistake, and against whom the charge has been withdrawn, I find him entitled to his full expenses as against the complainers.

As regards the separate complaint against Thompson, who was mistaken by the prosecutors' witnesses for Fairweather, at first it is stated that he sold a small quantity of oxalic acid on May 18, he not being qualified. The evidence has shown that packets of oxalic acid, made up under the supervision of a qualified man, were kept in an open drawer. There might be Epsom salts or anything else in that drawer. I cannot say that that is a good system for the safety of the public. Whether it was safe or not, it is a fact that this oxalic acid was sold without any qualified person being present to supervise the sale, and this charge being also proved, I impose the modified penalty of 2*l.* and costs.

Mr. Orr pointed out that the first and second charges were taken as one, and that only one penalty was sued for by the complainers. The using and exhibiting of the name and the issuing of the circulars was taken as one offence.

His Lordship said that the complaint was not well framed. The penalty would be restricted to the first charge, as regarded Gray and the other shareholders.

Mr. Orr desired a case to be stated for the High Court of Justice, to which the matter is to be appealed, and this was granted by the Sheriff in the usual way.

#### STARCH GLAZE AND STARCH GLOSS.

ASCOUGH v. C. E. JOHNSON & Co.

THIS was an appeal against a decision of Mr. Justice Chitty, heard in the Court of Appeal on Wednesday last. The plaintiff, who carries on business in Birmingham as the "Patent Borax Company," manufactures a chemical preparation for laundry purposes which he calls "Starch glaze." He has registered a trade-mark which consists of the head of a young lady with flowing hair, with the word "Borax" printed above it in a semi-circular form, and below it the words "Starch glaze," the one above the other. On the labels (which are of a blue colour) which the plaintiff uses on his packets the words "The Queen's Royal" are also printed immediately below the head. The defendant, who carries on business at Hull as "Charles E. Johnson & Co.," sells a preparation which he calls "Starch gloss." He also has registered a trade-mark which consists of the figure of Britannia (within a circular border) seated facing to the left, and guarded by the British lion. On the labels which the defendant places on his packets (the colour of which closely resembles that of the plaintiff's labels) the figure of Britannia faces to the right, and on the left and right respectively of the circle are printed the words "Trade" and "Mark," and below the circle are printed the words "Britannia," "Starch," "Gloss," one above the other, in that order. The plaintiff alleged that the defendant was in effect representing his goods to be those of the plaintiff, and claimed an injunction to restrain him from so doing. Mr. Justice Chitty on May 20 last refused the application. The plaintiff appealed, and the Court now allowed the appeal.

Lord Justice Cotton said he should grant an injunction because the defendant had refused to accede to the suggestion made by Lord Justice Fry that he should undertake to keep an account of his profits derived from the sale of his article, and that the motion should stand over to the trial of the action. The question was not one of trade-mark, but was whether the defendant was passing off his goods as those of the plaintiff, and the Court considered there was a great resemblance between the two packets. If the two were placed side by side, the one could not be mistaken for the other; but the question was whether the defendant's packets were not *prima facie* calculated to mislead purchasers who had only an imperfect knowledge of the plaintiff's goods. On the evidence his Lordship thought that there was such similarity between the get-up of the defendant's goods and that of the plaintiff's goods as was calculated to deceive.

Lords Justices Fry and Bowen concurred.

#### HOP BITTERS COMPANY (LIMITED) v. SOUTHAMPTON DRUG COMPANY (LIMITED).

IN the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, on July 1, before Mr. Justice Stirling, it was mentioned that the defendants had agreed to submit to a perpetual injunction on terms arranged. The injunction was therefore granted.



## BANKRUPTCY REPORTS.

JOSEPH HALLIWELL, Scarborough, Chemist and Druggist.

THE statement of affairs in this matter is as follows:—  
Liabilities: To unsecured creditors, 994*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* Assets: By cash in hand, 6*s.* 3*d.*; stock-in-trade, cost 330*l.*, estimated to produce 100*l.*; machinery, &c., cost 130*l.*, estimated to produce 50*l.*; furniture, 70*l.*, estimated to produce 30*l.*; other property, 1*l.* 5*s.*, estimated to produce 1*l.* 5*s.*; book debts good, 10*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; total, 192*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, less preferential creditors, for rent, rates, taxes, wages, &c., payable in full, 51*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, leaving net assets, 141*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, and showing a deficiency of 853*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* The following is a list of the creditors:—

## Unsecured.

	£	s.	d.
Ayrton & Saunders, Liverpool .. .. .	14	15	10
Ayscough Thompson & Son, London .. .. .	10	8	0
Evans, Lescher & Webb, London .. .. .	35	8	7
Poggett, Wm., Thirsk .. .. .	11	0	8
Hall, Robt., Littleborough .. .. .	100	0	0
Halliwell, Ed., Littleborough .. .. .	457	10	0
Hendrie & Co., London .. .. .	17	5	7
Hirst, Brooke & Hirst, Leeds .. .. .	20	4	2
Maw, S., Son & Thompson, London .. .. .	26	18	3
Porrett, Mrs., Scarborough .. .. .	23	8	2
Raines & Co., York .. .. .	26	15	9
Society of London Opticians, London .. .. .	10	7	0
Southall Bros. & Barclay, Birmingham .. .. .	16	2	8
Woodall, Hebden & Co., Scarborough .. .. .	11	9	4
Creditors under 10 <i>l.</i> .. .. .	212	4	11
	994	8	11
Rent, rates, &c. .. .. .	51	3	8

At the first meeting of creditors the Official Receiver presented his report, which stated the debtor has not been adjudicated a bankrupt, as it was understood that he was desirous of offering a composition. Up to the meeting, however, no offer had been made. Debtor's assets consisted of a small stock-in-trade of drugs, chemists' perfumery, &c., and some furniture. Part of the goods in the shop and house are claimed by Mrs. Halliwell. It was found that 592*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* was owing to four creditors, 402*l.* 1*s.* for lent money, viz. 100*l.* to the debtor's uncle, 457*l.* 10*s.* to his father, 23*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* to his landlady, and 11*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* to Messrs. Woodall, Hebden & Co. Of the assets, the stock-in-trade was estimated to produce 100*l.*, but this the Official Receiver thinks is below the mark. The various assets gave a total of 192*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, from which must be deducted the preferential creditors, amounting to 51*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* The item of deficiency 222*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, being the alleged loss since commencing business, would require a detailed examination. This, it was supposed, is an assumed figure put in to balance the account. Debtor commenced business nineteen months ago with 330*l.* borrowed from his father, for which he gave a promissory note for 430*l.*, the extra 100*l.* having been advanced by his father to pay the expense of debtor's passing his examination. Debtor in March last, finding himself embarrassed, caused a circular to be issued to his creditors, which did not contain a true statement of his affairs, and is thoroughly misleading. It shows that he was actually insolvent at that period, and that he must have been aware of the fact. This seems to be a feature of the case, and also that the nineteen months' trading on a borrowed capital of 430*l.* should result in so large a deficiency.

Mr. Scruton, who represented Messrs. Raines & Co., said that when he received the circular referred to, he wrote to the bankrupt and advised him to sell out as a going concern, in which case he would have something over after satisfying his debts, which he set out as a little over 300*l.*, and assets 450*l.*, so that when the Official Receiver's statement of affairs was received he, as well as other creditors, was surprised to find that the unsecured debts amounted to 994*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, and assets estimated to realise 192*l.*

The bankrupt explained this by saying that his father and uncle were creditors for about 600*l.*, and their debts were not included in the statement he sent to the trade creditors, and that the amount stated was only an estimated sum. He said he had no record of the sums he borrowed except that they would appear in his bank book. He undertook to furnish an

account of his receipts and payments since commencing business. He had no offer of composition to make.

This being a summary case no resolutions were passed, and the estate remains in the hands of the Official Receiver, to be administered under the summary clauses of the Bankruptcy Act.

## Re W. B. ADAMSON, Newcastle, Drysalter.

THE examination of the debtor took place on Monday, before Mr. Registrar Ingledew, of the Newcastle Bankruptcy Court. The debtor stated that a large portion of his estate consisted of book-debts, several of which he had returned as bad, because some were lost, some of the debtors had died, and some had shut up their shops. He did not know where they were. In reply to the Official Receiver, the debtor said some had not paid their debts as far as he was aware. This reply led to further questions on the part of the Official Receiver, and it was elicited that some debts which were put down as bad had actually been paid. One debtor to whom the Receiver applied for payment of 220*l.* had produced Adamson's own receipt for the amount. The debtor said he had produced a full statement of his goods and transactions. He had no knowledge of a man named Ricketts, of Buckingham Street, Newcastle, and he had not sent any goods to him since the filing of his petition because he had not sufficient room in his own premises. His wife disposed of some of her furniture in April to settle a private debt. The Court informed the debtor that the further hearing of the case would be adjourned for a fortnight, and that in the meantime he must make inquiries into the matter of Ricketts, and the goods alleged to have been supplied to him.

Re RICHARD HABBERFIELD SHORT, GEORGE SHORT, and WM. REDFERN DEYKIN, 91 Queen Victoria Street, Granville Street, Birmingham, Old Street, E.C. and Fleet Street (*British Mercantile Gazette*), merchants and newspaper proprietors, trading as "Short, Short & Co.," and "Short Bros."

UNDER this failure the statement of affairs has been filed, and shows total liabilities expected to rank, 63,461*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*; and assets, 20,776*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*; or a deficiency of 42,684*l.* 17*s.* 0*d.* The debtors appear to have had considerable dealings in drugs, &c. The following are the creditors connected with the trade:—

	£	s.	d.
Barclay, Clayton & Co., Crucifix Lane .. .. .	26	5	0
Bonde et Fils, Marseilles .. .. .	388	18	6
Burgoyne, Burdidges & Co., Coleman Street .. .. .	17	8	5
Burrongs, Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill Buildings .. .. .	24	18	6
Davenport, J. T., Great Russell Street .. .. .	11	7	8
Davis, W. J., & Sons, Western Street .. .. .	10	4	5
Edwards, B. J., & Co., Hackney .. .. .	58	4	2
Keating, Thos., St. Paul's Chureyard .. .. .	26	2	0
Lowe, C. & F., Manchester .. .. .	35	8	4
Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, Bishopsgate Street .. .. .	44	4	7
Lynch & Co., Aldersgate Street .. .. .	11	1	0
Maw, S., Son & Thompson, Aldersgate Street .. .. .	13	0	4
Morison & Co., Euston Road .. .. .	29	5	0
Piesse & Lubin, New Broad Street .. .. .	25	11	6
Stephens, H. C., Aldersgate Street .. .. .	42	7	0
Steward, G., & Sons, York .. .. .	34	10	10

A MEDICAL journal says:—"The application of a bit of ice to the lobe of the ear will stop hiccoughing." All a man who is accustomed to hiccoughing has to do, then, is to carry a bit of ice about in his waistcoat pocket, and he can cure himself instantly.

THE first to employ leeches was Themison, a physician of Laodicea and contemporary of Pompey. He was also the founder of the sect of the Methodici, and is often cited as an authority, especially by Caelius Aurelianus. Dr. Greenhill distinguishes him from the Themison satirised by Juvenal (x., 221), who, it being then the custom with artists of every kind to assume the name of celebrities in the same walk, no doubt called himself after his distinguished predecessor. This assumption of names is one of the many difficulties besetting the historian of ancient medicine.



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The ordinary dose is a large wineglassful (4 ounces) taken fasting. Most efficacious and more acceptable to the palate when heated or mixed with an equal quantity of very hot water.

"After twenty years' use I appreciate it as highly as ever."  
 Professor **VIRCHOW.**

Of all Chemists and Mineral Water Dealers. [2]

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 FOR—  
 RHEUMATISM LUMBAGO.  
 SPRAINS, BRUISES, STIFFNESS.  
 SORE THROAT FROM COLD.  
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 "And, we may safely add, in any part of the World."—*Dr. Cuffe, for many years late resident Physician at Woodhall Spa.*  
 An analysis of the water having been made in November, 1886, by Professor Wanklyn, M.R.C.S., corresponding member of the Royal Bavarian Academy of Sciences, Professor of Chemistry, a very important discovery has been made, viz., the presence of Free or Elementary Iodine.

Dr. Wanklyn says—"So far as I am aware, this is the first instance in which free Iodine has been found in appreciable quantity in a natural water. For many years the Woodhall Spa has been celebrated as a valuable remedy in skin diseases. The fact that it is a solution of free Iodine is interesting in this connection, and well worthy of the attention of the medical profession."

The Woodhall Bromo Iodine Water is now being bottled at the Spring by the Sole Agents, **BROMLEY & CO., Chemists, 233 High Street, Lincoln, 5 & 6 The Grove, Buxton, and at Woodhall.** All communications to be addressed to them at the Spa, Woodhall, Horncastle.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

### THE DEFEAT OF THE DRUG COMPANIES.

THERE has been no such important case in the legal records of pharmacy since the celebrated Provincial Supply Association case as that brought by the Pharmaceutical Society against the shareholders in a company called the Leith Depôt (Limited), and decided on Friday of last week by Sheriff Rutherford in the Society's favour. In the former case it will be remembered the House of Lords, confirming the decision of the Court of Appeal, laid it down that where a "person" is named in the Pharmacy Act, "incorporated company" could not be understood. The Act says that a "person" not duly registered as a pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist shall not keep open shop for the sale of poisons, shall not sell such poisons, and shall not take, use, or exhibit the title of chemist and druggist. The Pharmaceutical Society prosecuted the company. For the defence it was urged that the company was not a person, and, therefore, was not affected by the Act; and this defence was successful. Consequently, as we all know, unregistered, unqualified, and incompetent persons have formed themselves into companies, and in that capacity have done openly what they dared not do as individuals, and it has been generally assumed for the past seven years that there could be no remedy for this state of things except by getting an Amending Act through Parliament.

Greatly to somebody's credit, however, a way of combating the legal illegality has been discovered, and, according to the latest interpretation of the law, persons who have taken advantage of the apparent flaw in the Pharmacy Act, and have incorporated themselves into companies to evade the Act, are each and all liable to numerous and heavy penalties. We tender our heartiest compliments to whomsoever it may be to whose ingenuity pharmacy is indebted for this indication of the way out of the ridiculous and ruinous *impasse* into which the House of Lords' ruling had brought us.

"The Leith Depôt (Limited), chemists and druggists," have recently carried on two businesses, both in Leith. The company consisted of seven persons, five men and two women, no one of whom was registered. The Society commenced proceedings, not against the company this time, but against these seven "persons." The counsel for the defence of course cited the House of Lords' judgment, and on that ground urged that the charge against these persons was not a good one, and that the summonses must be dismissed. He maintained, with a great deal of ability, that these persons, as such, had not called themselves chemists and druggists; that it was the company which had done that, and that the company had done what it had a perfect right to do; and that moreover the company employed qualified men to do the actual selling of poisons, and that thus they met the requirement of the law, and provided for the public safety. In concluding his argument, Mr. Orr urged that the effect of a conviction would be to stop the company from carrying on its business; a result which, it may be added, the prosecutors are prepared for, and would bear with equanimity. Mr. Shaw, in support of the charges, said that it was the evident intention of the statute to direct its provisions against persons. He did not ask for a penalty against the company; he asked that one should be imposed on the persons composing that company. They it was who had offended, and they could not get out of



their offence by saying that they had not exhibited the title in association with their own names, but had done so in association with some other name. If that were permissible, John Thomson, an unqualified person, might start in business under the name of "David Jones, chemist and druggist," and not be liable to the penalty. If, said Mr. Shaw, these seven persons cannot be reached, it is easy for the individual owners of any seven shops to incorporate themselves, and then be entitled to use a common name and exhibit over each shop the title, "chemist and druggist."

Sheriff Rutherford took a few days to consider the objection which had been raised, and elsewhere we print the judgment he delivered. It should be read very carefully. The utmost weight is given to all the arguments, and the Sheriff had evidently acquainted himself minutely with the whole of the judgments in the previous cases. Of course he accepted, as he was bound to do, the law as laid down; but in coming to a decision which practically reverses the House of Lords' judgment, he shows with incisive force that there is no legal conflict involved. He simply carries the opinions of the law lords to a logical conclusion, and in so doing restores sense to the Pharmacy Act. The defendants, he says, did not assume the title in their individual capacity; but the 15th section of the Act does not require that they should do so in order to constitute the statutory offence, and he was of opinion that it was quite competent for shareholders in a company to commit the offence by means of the company. The object of the Legislature was the safety of the public; but this purpose would be defeated if seven persons, none of whom could rightly assume the title individually, could do it corporately. He held that the prosecution was right in being directed against the persons who constituted the company, and was, indeed, what the judgment of the Court logically suggested.

It is announced that Sheriff Rutherford's most important decision is to be appealed against, and it is desirable that this should be done. The Pharmaceutical Society must of course be prepared to fight the question on its new footing to the highest Court again if necessary. In the Sheriff's judgment they have a splendid weapon which will stand them in good stead in any court; and if, as is possible, the judgment can be maintained, the days of company pharmacy are, or should be, numbered. There is nothing that would so surely elevate pharmacy as to make it a personal profession. It is this that Sheriff Rutherford's verdict tends to, and we congratulate the Pharmaceutical Society on their unexpected success in this renewal of the contest.

### BELLADONNA PLASTER.

WITHIN a few days after the publication of the British Pharmacopœia in 1885 several eminent pharmacists protested against the exclusion of the old belladonna plaster from the Pharmacopœia. The new preparation is made from an alcoholic extract of the root; it differs greatly from the old in appearance, but is not much stronger in alkaloid. At the Aberdeen Conference Mr. Umney expressed surprise that the authors of the Pharmacopœia should have made such a sudden change without giving the option of using either the root extract or an alcoholic extract of the leaves for making the plaster. Mr. Borland concurred in this opinion, and said that "in drawing up the Pharmacopœia the wants of the public should be looked to quite as much as the scientific aspect of the question, for no amount of reasoning and explanation would convince the public that something quite different in appearance" [such as the new brown belladonna plaster for the old "green plaster"] "to what they had been used to was in reality the article required." There were other

critics; the opinions of all being summed up by Professor Atfield thus:—"Stephenson, Umney, Borland, Maben, and Conroy regret that this plaster is no longer green, as when made from the alcoholic extract of the leaves; while Martindale disagrees, and says the old was always dirty and disliked by patients. Redwood says, 'Wait, and your customers will soon become as accustomed to the brown as to the green.' Moss considers the new plaster a decided improvement." We have lately endeavoured to ascertain by inquiry how far Dr. Redwood's prediction has come true, a reasonable time having elapsed since it was made. We give the opinions of our correspondents in their own words:—

Mr. Umney, in his reply, refers to his prediction above mentioned that a plaster made from belladonna root would not become popular with either the public or the medical profession, and remarks that he "has found that this is so; that the clients of his firm, both medical and pharmaceutical, will have plaster made from the alcoholic extract of the leaves, and reject that made from the root. Moreover, complaints have been made on more than one occasion of serious pustules and great inconveniences arising from the plaster made from the root. On reference to his firm's laboratory journal Mr. Umney finds that at least 50 per cent. of the belladonna plaster that is now used is made from an alcoholic extract of the leaves, and in his opinion those who use the plaster made from the root only do so out of a feeling of loyalty to the Pharmacopœia." Mr. John Moss is still of the same opinion that he expressed about two years ago. His "experience is that the 1885 extract of belladonna is used to a far larger extent for making the plaster than the green extract of 1867." Mr. W. A. H. Naylor, one of the secretaries of the conference, writes for Hearon, Squire & Francis:—"I should say that, judging from our sale of the two kinds—the green and the 1885, the latter (B.P. 1885) is *now* the more used of the two. It has grown much in favour during the last six months." Mr. Naylor adds that "if in making the alcoholic extract pressure had been ordered instead of displacement by water the plaster would have been excellent, though dear." This is a point which the Pharmacopœia authorities should look into. Mr. Conroy (Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool) says:—"The 1885 plaster has met with more acceptance than I expected. Still our laboratory books show that we have made 50 per cent. more of the green kind than we have made of the new."

We have also the opinions of two manufacturers of spread plasters. Mr. Wm. Mather says:—"The green belladonna plaster is most used;" and Mr. A. de St. Dalmas, who joined in the Aberdeen discussion but did not prophesy, says:—"The B.P. preparation is scarcely used at all. We spread 3,000 yards of the green to one of the B.P. 1885." These opinions—or rather facts—are convincing testimony of the popularity of the green plaster, for the bulk of the plaster sold retail is of the machine-spread form.

Our other correspondents are all engaged in the retail trade, and some of them have already criticised the new plaster. How far experience has altered their opinions will be observed from what follows. Mr. J. B. Stephenson (Edinburgh) finds "there is no kind specified, as far as his experience goes, where *emp. belladonnæ* is ordered." Our Edinburgh correspondent informs us that "the green plaster is, as far as he can learn, used there, and the 'green belladonna plaster' is still asked for." Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—"It is almost invariably the custom here to supply *emp. bellad.* B.P. 1867, when a belladonna plaster is asked for. When '*emp. belladonnæ*,' however, is ordered in a prescription, the 1885 article is supplied. The green plaster on moleskin, swansdown, or calico is the only article used by general practitioners. Most probably the majority of them



do not know the appearance of the new article. Since writing above a doctor just recently qualified has been complaining about the 'bad colour' of a belladonna plaster which was spread with the new Pharmacopœia article." Mr. A. Strachan (Aberdeen) independently corroborates Mr. Umney's statement regarding the irritation produced by the new plaster. He writes:—"I now use quite as much green plaster as B.P. 1885, but I doubt very much if such is the case here generally. My experience of the B.P. 1885, plaster is anything but satisfactory to myself and my customers, for painful effects are sometimes produced by this plaster. I had one case sifted to the bottom because it threatened to be a law case. I have, therefore, come to the conclusion that there must be some acrid juice in the root which produces the unpleasant effect." Mr. S. M. Frazer, writing for one of the largest retail establishments in Scotland, says:—"When emp. belladonnæ is *prescribed*, we give the B.P. 1885, but when *asked* for as 'a belladonna plaster,' we give the green preparation. We think the numbers sold of each must be very nearly the same, though in time doubtless the B.P. 1885 plaster will supersede the other." Mr. M. Leigh (Brighton) says:—"The new emp. belladonnæ is little used. Soon after the 1885 Pharmacopœia was issued we made an effort to introduce the new, but customers did not like it, so we returned to the green, and now always use it." Mr. John Borland, whose opinion of 1885 is quoted above, now writes:—"I have found no reason to change the opinion which I formerly expressed regarding the green belladonna plaster. In our dispensing we have employed both kinds—that of B.P. 1867, and that of B.P. 1885—and we find that the public here give the preference to the former. Still they are asked for under the name of 'Green Plasters.'" The new plaster is "a pet" of Mr. Martindale's, and it is interesting to know that after many years' experience with it he has "never heard among his customers any complaint against it. He thinks it a much more satisfactory preparation than the old one."

We shall be glad to receive the opinions of others on the subject, and if any can state the exact proportion or quantities of each plaster used since September 1885 such data would be valuable. Our endeavour is not to prove that a mistake has been made in introducing the root-extract plaster, but rather to ascertain if this plaster is replacing the old one or not, especially in ordinary retail as distinguished from dispensing business. It is highly probable that the green plaster has been discarded too hastily; and if proof is given that this is so, the authorities may consider it necessary to give it its old place in the Pharmacopœia on the first opportunity.

#### FAIR-MINDED JOURNALISM IN AUSTRALIA.

THE establishment of our branch journal in Melbourne, now in its second year, has secured for us a remarkable journalistic position in the Australasian Colonies. Our subscription roll includes fully three-fourths, we believe we might say four-fifths, of the pharmacists of the Southern hemisphere. But there is at least one individual in Melbourne to whom every sign of our progress seems to cause acute suffering. This person is Mr. Harry Shillinglaw, secretary of the self-styled "Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia." So far as we know we have never done Mr. Shillinglaw any injury whatever; but from the moment we set foot in Australia Mr. Shillinglaw never seems to have been happy. Very soon after our arrival he induced his employers to commence an action against us on the most flimsy of pretexts, and of course incurred for his society our expenses as well as their own. He is neither a

pharmacist nor a journalist by training, but appears to have somehow acquired the impression that he has received a heaven-sent mission to regulate both these professions in his quarter of the world. We have several times furnished him with a text for some incoherent ravings, but in the May number of the Society's journal which he conducts these have exceeded in virulence any previous specimens. For the amusement of English readers we append a couple of choice extracts from this *Eatonsville Gazette* of pharmacy:—

Our purpose is to advance the status of pharmacy, and we find so much to do in combating the prejudices of the powers that be that we have no space to correct the blunders of a publication having no influence, &c.

Journalistically and personally speaking, we entertain a feeling of pity for journals of the class represented by our contemporary.

We are described as mendacious, and our conduct as dastardly and contemptible; we are received only on sufferance, and, however we are regarded in other lands, we are held in small repute in Greater Britain—Greater Britain on this occasion being a room in Swanston Street, Melbourne. The other "we," on the other hand, is a different sort of fellow altogether; all is fair and above-board with him; he persistently advocates the upraising [to his own level?] of Australasian pharmacists; and so forth.

Does this sort of stuff impose on any Australian pharmacist? We will not insult the intelligence of our fellow-pharmacists in the colonies by supposing that to be possible. Among educated people the bombastic style in journalism is about played out, though an apprehension of that fact has evidently not yet filtered into Mr. Shillinglaw's brain. His abusive rant would have received no notice from us if it were not for the circumstance that he is authorised to write his libels about us in the name of a pharmaceutical society which, under its original and proper title, acquired some repute. With many apologies, therefore, to our home readers, who cannot have much interest in our Australian disputes, we condescend to this reply.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia is just the old Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria, and nothing more. Its new title was assumed recently, and coincidentally with the decision to establish a magazine. The title is obviously an insult to the other pharmaceutical societies in Australasia, and has been so regarded; and whatever may have been the intention, it certainly has misled advertisers at home. Prospectuses of the magazine are sent to English houses announcing that copies of it are sent gratis to all the members of the society in Victoria, New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, and Fiji. In his editorial puff Mr. Shillinglaw writes as follows:—

The annual reports of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia give full particulars of the members of the society throughout the colonies, the payment of whose yearly subscriptions entitles them, as a matter of right, to copies of this journal. Our circulation, therefore, is a thoroughly genuine one, and quite exceptional advantages are offered to subscribers, advertisers, and the public, of obtaining an exact knowledge of the audience which we address.

Referring, therefore, to the last annual report of the society, we find that this "thoroughly genuine" circulation consists of 231 members resident in Victoria, 20 honorary members, a single member residing in London, one in the United States, one in Western Australia, two in Fiji, 16 in Tasmania, 16 in South Australia, 11 in Queensland, two in New Zealand, and 26 in New South Wales—a total of 327. We ask such men as Mr. Bosisto, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Blackett, and other founders of the Society whose names and work have reached Europe whether they are really proud of being associated with such misrepresentation as that?

Now for another specimen. Very soon after we had announced our intention of establishing a subsidiary journal



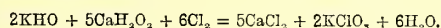
in Australia Mr. Shillinglaw registered as his copyright the title *The Australasian Chemist and Druggist*, and on the strength of that registration he was able to induce his council to let him commence an action against us for using the title *The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia*. We ask Messrs. Bosisto, Bowen, Blackett, and the rest whether they are proud of having been participators in such a proceeding?

Next specimen. One of the causes of Mr. Shillinglaw's latest ebullition was a little paragraph published by us on March 26 of this year, stating that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales had objected to supply Mr. Shillinglaw's journal with reports of the Council meetings on the ground that there was no necessity as all their members were supplied with their official organ, *The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia*. Mr. Shillinglaw says the paragraph was a mendacious one, and that the correct version of the incident was that "the correspondent of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* wrote applying to be recognised in that capacity, and requesting to be supplied with copies of the last examination papers." Will it be believed that these contradictory reports are not, as Mr. Shillinglaw pretends, versions of the same incident, but reports of occurrences at two meetings, one held in January, the other in February? This is an inaccuracy which it would be absurd to regard as a mistake. And yet based on that outrageous misrepresentation, Mr. Shillinglaw dares to lecture us on our methods of conducting our journals.

It is difficult to be even seriously angry with such a clumsy controversialist as this man. We address our remonstrance to the Council at Melbourne. They are being dragged into a false and ridiculous position because their servant has some incomprehensible private spite against a firm and a journal who have not perhaps estimated his importance at the standard at which he places it.

### THE NEW CHLORATE PROCESS.

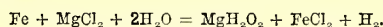
CHLORATE OF POTASSIUM is one of those chemicals which, while they do not hold the first rank as commercial articles, are of sufficient importance to the chemical manufacturer to merit his close attention in their production. The bulk of the chlorate annually produced is used in the manufacture of matches, fireworks, and of oxygen employed in limelight illuminations. Explosives take a little, and it is extensively used in medicine. The chlorate, it is well known, is prepared by the action of chlorine gas upon an alkaline hydrate. The reaction is one which illustrates in a forcible manner chemical constancy and the waste which frequently accompanies many chemical manufactures. When chlorine is made to act upon an alkaline hydrate 6 atoms of the gas are used up for each molecule of chlorate which is produced, 5 of the 6 combining to form chloride, which may be looked upon as waste. The result is altogether undesirable, but chemists have quite failed to contravert it. It is in accordance with a natural law. Hitherto, chlorate of potassium has been prepared by acting upon milk of lime with chlorine gas, and decomposing the calcium chlorate formed with potassium chloride, or the B.P. process is used. The latter is practically the same as the former, a large amount of lime being used in the latter case in order that the whole of the potash may be converted into chlorate, the chloride formed being a calcium salt. The reaction is as follows:—



Although the yield of chlorate in relation to chloride should be as 1 to 5, seldom more than 1 to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  is obtained, owing to the solubility of chlorate of potassium in solution of calcium chloride. Knowing that it is physically impossible to alter

the reaction above noted in the direction of economy of chlorine, chemists have long endeavoured to turn the chloride to some useful purpose, but with indifferent success. Some years ago the late Mr. Walter Weldon perceived that there was a growing demand for magnesium chloride, and also thinking that he could recover chlorine from the chloride, he endeavoured to prepare chlorate of potassium with magnesia instead of lime. But nothing of a permanent character came out of this. More recently Muspratt and Eschellmann patented a chlorate process in which magnesia was the secondary alkali used, and this has succeeded so well that it is now in operation at Muspratt's Widnes works.

Mr. Longuet Higgins recently communicated an interesting paper on the subject to the Liverpool section of the Society of Chemical Industry. The principles of the process are much the same as the lime process, but there are some important differences in details. In the first place the magnesia used is prepared by roasting magnesite; after roasting the mineral consists of about 92 per cent. of magnesia, with some lime and traces of iron and manganese, the whole being partly combined with carbonic acid and silica in varying quantities. The roasted mineral does not slake like lime, and has, therefore, to be powdered and suspended in water. Chlorine gas is then allowed to act upon it. It does so without raising the temperature to the high degree observable in the case of lime, and it has also been observed that the intermediary stage—viz. the formation of hypochlorite—is much more transitory if at all existent. Then the pink manganese-coloured liquors are not an indication of full chlorination as in the case of lime. The most important point of difference is in the comparative yield of chlorate; with lime we have stated that 1 to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  is a fair average, with magnesia it is generally 1 to 5.1, that is 7 per cent. less chloride in the case of magnesia, and what chloride is produced is marketable, obviously a very considerable saving. Moreover, potassium chlorate is less soluble in solution of magnesium chloride than in calcium chloride solution. After the magnesia liquor is saturated with chlorine it is allowed to settle, then evaporated, whereby 50 per cent. of the magnesium chloride ( $\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) crystallises out. The mother liquor contains chlorate and chloride in the proportion of 1 to 2.8. At this stage the liquor is carefully tested, and only as much potassium chloride added as will react with the magnesium chlorate. If an excess of chloride is added it combines with some of the magnesium chloride, forming a double salt (carnellite,  $\text{KCl} \cdot \text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), which crystallises along with the potassium chloride, and is difficult to wash out. If too little potassium chloride is added some magnesium chlorate remains, and is not recoverable as such. With the addition of potassium chloride the process is practically at an end so far as the chlorate is concerned, recrystallisation serving to purify the salt. But the recovery of the magnesium chloride remains, and the process becomes even more interesting. The mother liquor contains magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium chlorate, gypsum, and a little iron. It is first neutralised, then run into a still, where the chlorate is decomposed with hydrochloric acid, the chlorine given off being utilised. After this any iron present is precipitated with magnesia, then a sufficient quantity of kieserite ( $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) is added to precipitate the calcium salts. After this settles the liquor is fit for evaporation. In Stassfurt the magnesium chloride liquors are evaporated safely in wrought-iron pans. Following this similar pans were at first used in Muspratt's works, but it was observed that the magnesia salt acted upon the iron much in the same way as an acid would, the following being the reaction which took place:—





The reaction is particularly energetic at high temperatures, and is the one which renders water containing magnesium chloride so destructive to boiler-plates. Zinc and lead are acted upon with equal force, but it is found that cast-iron pans stand the solution better, and these are accordingly used. Any iron formed is oxidised by heating the solution to a high temperature; it is then precipitated with magnesium hydrate, and, after it has settled and the liquor has cooled, the latter is poured into barrels, where it soon sets hard. The chloride so obtained is perfectly soluble in water, is white, and much purer than the German. How far the new process will influence the price of the chlorate yet remains to be seen, but, taking into account the comparatively small price obtained for magnesium chloride, and the value of chlorate, it is evident that the immediate gain will be for the benefit of the manufacturer rather than the consumer.

A petition signed by a large number of medical associations was presented to the German Reichstag the other day, in which that body was requested to prohibit the practice of medicine by persons not legally qualified. The petition was not so much intended to put a stop to quackery, pure and simple, as to check the spread of "nature-healing," a practice which is becoming very popular in Germany. Of course the devotees of "nature-healing" are up in arms against this suggested re-enactment of the quackery laws, and on June 22, eight hundred strong, including many ladies, they met at Berlin, to express their indignation at the petition of the medical associations, and to declare their adherence to the principle of "nature-healing." According to the *Pharm. Ztg.*, the proceedings were opened by M. Volkmar, a barrister, who submitted a resolution that the Reichstag be requested to refuse the petition in favour of prohibition of the exercise of medical functions by non-qualified persons, and the alteration of the law on sick-insurance funds. With regard to the latter, it was suggested in the petition to prohibit any non-qualified medical man from acting as adviser to an insurance society. The meeting, which was of an enthusiastic, and, notwithstanding the predominance of the fair sex, of a unanimous character, after being harangued by Miss Freitag, an elderly lady, who was especially bitter against the press, and Mr. Giebel, formerly an operatic singer, but now a professional apostle of "nature-healing," adopted a resolution, declaring "nature-healing" to be entirely distinct from quackery, and condemning as a quack "any person prescribing or selling poisonous or active remedies or executing unnecessary surgical operations." An "Association of Nature-healers" has since been established.

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**Perplexities of Protection.** The protectionist tendencies of the German Government frequently place them in an embarrassing position. The latest trouble with regard to the tariff has arisen on the question of the import duty on cotton-seed oil. At present this article is liable to a tax of 4 marks per 100 kilos., or about 2s. per cwt., but the German oil-pressers, whose business, in spite of the advantage which this duty affords them, suffers severely from the increasing popularity of the foreign oil of cotton-seed, want to get the import duty raised to a prohibitive figure, and have petitioned for an increase in the tariff from 4 to 10 marks per 100 kilos. or 5s. per cwt., which would be equal to about 20 per cent. of the present value of the oil. At the same time the German soapmakers, who are among the principal consumers of refined cotton-seed oils complain that even as the duty stands now, they are almost unable to successfully withstand English competition in soap, and they, therefore, actually petition for a reduction of the import duty on the oil from 4 to 2 marks per 100 kilos. The Chamber of Commerce at Offenbach-on-the-Maine has taken the side of the soap manufacturers, who are a powerful body in that city, and as soapmaking is a much more important industry in Germany than oil-pressing, it is thought likely that the soapmakers will have their way. But as the essence of protection is supposed to be the fostering of native industry, it would seem rather more logical to listen to the still small voice of the oil-pressers who want protection so badly, and let their stronger soapmaking brethren go to the wall.

**Aromatics and Bacteria.** The ancients, it is well known, used aromatics in much the same way as we now use powerful antiseptics. The late Mr. Rimmel devoted a considerable portion of his life to demonstrate that bodies of an aromatic character, such as essential oils, are antiseptics, and the views which he expressed are quite in accordance with those now accepted. M. Chamberland has recently reported upon the action of essential oils on the bacteria of charbon. Only 14 out of the 115 oils which he used had no effect on the bacillus, and oil of cloves was included in the number. Oil of cinnamon completely destroyed the germs in four days, whilst bacteridian germs placed in fresh yeast-water have been cultivated after having been for four days in contact with other oils. Cassia oil does not stop the development of filamentous bacteria, but oil of vespetro seems to kill it completely in eighteen hours. Placed in contact with carbuncle bacillus, or its germs, in solution, seven oils killed that bacterium. These oils were found to have about the same antiseptic power as sulphate of copper. Amongst these oils are cassia, cinnamon, and thyme oil, which, however, are only of full power when fresh and unoxidised. Experiments were also made with thymol; and summing up, M. Chamberland states that the most energetic antiseptics were corrosive sublimate and thymol. Sulphate and acetate of copper and bichromate of potash, although very active, allowed vegetations to grow; next to them in power were cassia oil, persulphate of iron, carbolic acid, alum, and sulphate of quinine. Boric acid, hyposulphite of soda, salicylate of soda, arseniate of potash, bisulphite of soda, chloride of alumina, and chloride of lime are comparatively weak antiseptics.

#### TRADE-MARKS APPLIED FOR.

THE *Trade Marks Journal* publishes the following notice:—"Any person who has good grounds for objection to the registration of any of the following marks may, within two months of the date of this journal, give notice in duplicate at the Patent Office, in the form 'J,' in the second schedule to the Trade Marks Rules, 1883, of opposition to such registration." The address of the Patent Office is Southampton Buildings, London, W.C.

From the "*Trade Marks Journal*," July 6, 1887.

- "S. S. W." as monogram; for dental goods, class 2 (59,514).
- "Globe Gold Foil" on figure of the globe; for gold foil (59,521). By the S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Company, Philadelphia.
- "THE CASTLE"; for gelatino-bromide and gelatino-chloride dry plates. By Mawson & Swan, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 61,698.
- "CARTER'S WEED CRYSTAL"; for chemical preparations for destroying weeds. By W. H. Dunnet and E. J. Beale (trading as James Carter, Dunnett & Beale, also as "Carters"), seed merchants, 238 High Holborn, W.C. 62,137.
- "THE ANTISEPTIC DEODORISER," and autograph of depositor; for deodorisers. By H. W. Schafer, merchants, 11 Tottenham Street, W. 62,227.
- "THE 'DESIDERATUM'"; for spray producers. By J. G. Franklin, surgical instrument maker, 11 Hoxton Street, Shoreditch, E. 62,305.
- "SAPO-LAVANDE" under a crown; for perfumed soap. By W. S. Thompson (trading as the Crown Perfumery Company), Old Bailey, E.C. 62,464.
- "LIVERINE"; for a food or condiment for animals or birds. By T. King, clothier, Pelham Villa, Bargate, Great Grimsby. 62,661.
- "GARLAND'S HAIRDRESSING"; for perfumery. By Garland Perfumery Company, 17 Farnival Street, London. 62,711.
- "BOSS WATER FILTER" and figure of a water tap with filter attached; for filters. By E. Simpson, 180 Fleet Street, E.C. 62,792.



## CONSULS' REPORTS.

## ASIA MINOR.

*Commercial Travellers* In reviewing the trade of the district of Trebizond during 1886, our consul observes that British trade could no doubt be greatly developed by commercial travellers visiting the country with samples, studying the requirements of the people, and meeting local tastes in the nature, quality, and value of the goods most in demand.

*Cash Terms recommended* The three to six months' credit in business transactions accorded to natives by European manufacturers is not recommendable. The English system of cash terms, though inconvenient to local tradesmen, is preferable, and may, if other facilities be afforded, cope successfully with the money concessions of France, Austria, and Germany.

*Bowwood* The shipments of this article, almost exclusively exported to England, continue to decrease, owing to the Government contesting with the villagers the ownership of the trees, and overestimating the value of the wood, so that large quantities of it bought from the villagers lie unexported from the merchants' inability to meet the forest dues of 25 per cent.

*Linseed* The cultivation of linseed in the interior of the district of Trebizond, which only commenced in 1880, is gradually extending, so that this export, affecting chiefly England, is yearly on the increase.

The following are among the principal items of the Trebizond trade:

*Imports.*

	1886	Value in £	1885
Chemicals and drugs .. ..	3,283		4,400
Colours, dyes, and pain's ..	7,900		4,500
Olive oil .. ..	12,130		9,900
Petroleum .. ..	8,365		7,050
Soap and perfumery .. ..	6,115		8,220
Spices.. ..	740		1,100

*Exports.*

	1886	1885
Gall nuts .. ..	150	650
Gums .. ..	4,400	3,940
Linseed .. ..	14,250	4,760
Wax .. ..	11,550	16,000

## CHINA.

*Opium in Formosa* The port of Taiwan in Formosa imported in 1886 2,647 chests of opium, against 2,224 chests during the previous year. Out of the whole number 383 only were Indian, the remaining 2,264 being all Persian. Previous returns have shown a large and increasing import of Turkey opium. This is an error which has crept in through the improper use of the term to designate a particular class of Persian opium much in demand here; the truth is that there is not, and never has been, any demand in South Formosa for Turkey opium properly so called. Indian opium still continues to lose ground, and there seems no chance whatever of the drug again finding a market here. The poppy has been planted in the Hêng-Chun district, the most southern district of Formosa, and also in Chang-hua, one of the Mid-Formosa districts—but no opium from these districts has yet been brought into the market.

*Formosa Turmeric* The turmeric exports from Formosa are developing, and promise well for the future. Already, by the introduction of a simple machine for ginning the root, the value in foreign markets has been increased 25 per cent., and it seems likely that the demand for it will continue.

*Camphor* Of late years the export of camphor from Formosa has almost entirely ceased in consequence of the risky nature of the trade. The camphor is so badly prepared and is adulterated to such an extent that the loss in weight is excessive, and unless the cost price is extremely low, there is little temptation to engage in the business. The possible supply is practically unlimited, but the inferior quality prevents any great demand for it.

In 1885 a foreign firm at Taiwan made an attempt to revive the trade, but in May, 1886, a proclamation was issued by

the governor of the island, announcing that the Government monopoly of camphor, which was abolished in 1868, had been revived in order to defray the expenses consequent on the attempts made to subdue and civilise the aborigines. The camphor produced and stored in the interior was seized by the Chinese authorities, and since then not a single tub has found its way to the port. The monopoly has not proved as profitable to the Government as was anticipated. The fixed rate offered for collection is much below that which foreign merchants are prepared to pay, and the result of the governor's action has so far been simply to nip the reviving trade in the bud, without improving his revenue in the slightest degree.

*Opium at Kiungchow* The importation of opium is increasing year after year. In 1886 62,820 lbs. more were imported than in 1885, and double the amount of 1883. The reason for this large increase is probably that a larger district is supplied from this port now than formerly. The neighbouring districts on the mainland, which were formerly supplied by junk from Hong-kong, now get the drug from this port, to which it is brought by steamers. Kiungchow received in 1886 225,421 lbs. opium, worth 171,100*l*.

*Amoy Trade declining* The imports of Amoy show an almost universal decrease, and a crisis in the affairs of the port is expected. Amoy's prosperity is due to its being the port of supply to the neighbourhood, and also the port of transshipment for Formosa. Now, so far as exports are concerned—and foreign merchants are more interested in these than in imports, which are mainly in Chinese hands—the Formosa trade is more valuable than the local, and this is rapidly slipping away in consequence of the development of the Formosan ports.

*Imports* Soap is imported to a value of nearly 1,000*l*., a good deal being fancy soap. Perfumery shows a value of only 240*l*. Florida water is a favourite article. Aniline dyes, principally of German manufacture, are imported to a value of 2,400*l*. The opium imports are rapidly declining, owing mainly to the increased native cultivation of the poppy.

## FRENCH COLONIES.

*Tahiti Vanilla* Vanilla is becoming an export article of some importance from Tahiti, in the Pacific. In 1885, this island exported 4,919 lbs., value 1,475*l*., in 1886, 8,408 lbs., value 2,522*l*.

## ITALY.

*Genoa Olive Oil* The olive oil exports from Genoa in 1885 were 2,978 tons, value 160,789*l*., and in 1886 5,344 tons, value 267,911*l*. The bulk of this went to the South American Republics. The exports to England and British possessions amounted to 308 tons in all; but it must be noted that oil to France and England now goes chiefly by rail. It is next to impossible any longer to procure olive oil from the Riviera in a pure state, it being largely mixed both with inferior oils from Sicily and with cotton oil.

*Chemicals* The import of chemicals was of about the usual total; but unfortunately year by year the trade is falling away from England, owing to the great progress made by German chemists; and sodas are now also largely imported from France. The import of nitrate of soda was large in 1886. In disinfectants a large business was done owing to the outbreak of cholera; and these were in great part imported from England.

## JAVA.

*Cinchona Cultivation* The area of land planted with cinchona on private account is estimated at 21,000 acres, and the number of trees at 30,000,000, of which about 14,000,000 are of the *C. Succirubra* species. The crop for 1887 is estimated at 1,433,250 lbs. The average proportion of sulphate extracted from the bark is estimated to be about 3 per cent.

In 1883, the last year for which returns are available of the area of land planted by the Government, it was 1,778 acres.

At the end of 1886 the statistics of the Government estates were as follows:—Plants in the nurseries, 2,108,000; plants in open ground, 1,688,700.



The bulk of these are *C. Ledgeriana*, which variety is more and more gaining favour.

*Drug Exports.* In 1886 the exports from Java included cinchona, 1,833,028 lbs.; cinnamon, 21,898 lbs.; cloves, 82,150 lbs.; gum damar, 2,278,953 lbs.; indigo, 2,260,804 lbs.; nutmegs, 92,301 lbs.; pepper, 5,763,349 lbs.

#### PORTUGAL.

*New Tariff.* The project of a new customs tariff has been laid before the Cortes by the Portuguese Government. Although the precise manner in which goods of British origin will be affected cannot as yet be accurately stated, there is no doubt but that it will affect a great simplification in the present system, as half of the 662 articles in the existing tariff will be suppressed, as well as the additional percentages created at various times for special objects, such as harbour works. These additional sums, which it is difficult to calculate beforehand, have more than anything else been the cause of the uncertainty which characterises commercial transactions with Portugal.

*Olive Oil.* The Portuguese olive oil industry is in the midst of a serious crisis. There are large tracts of country in Portugal which, in consequence of the arid nature of the soil, are peculiarly adapted to the growth of the olive, whereas they would otherwise be entirely unproductive, and in which the extinction of the oil-making industry would be a national calamity. There was a large falling-off in the export last year, and this is accounted for by the fact that in other oil-manufacturing countries, such as France, Italy, and Spain, there is a considerable adulteration with cotton oil imported from America, by means of which it can be produced at a price which enables them to undersell the Portuguese producers, not only in foreign markets, but in Portugal itself, in spite of a protective duty.

#### SPAIN.

*The New Treaty.* British trade with Bilbao has undoubtedly increased since the new treaty with Spain came into force, its indirect effects being remarkable as regards German imports, which have enormously fallen off during the past year; and if British traders and manufacturers supplied their goods on the system adopted by foreign competitors, namely, duty paid, through suitable representation in the country authorised to sell and concede credit, they would probably find ready markets for their consignments. British manufacturers should also, by careful observation and close attention to all the details respecting the nature and quality of the goods they send, endeavour to adapt their consignments to the requirements of the place; otherwise their goods are liable to be left on account, questions arise, and as legal redress is almost impossible, owing to the tardy and expensive nature of the proceedings, loss and want of confidence are the almost inevitable results.

*Essences for Perfumery.* This is a new industry in Andalusia, and during the year 1886 5,182 lbs. were shipped from a manufactory recently established in the town of Medina-Sidonia. A large trade might be opened up in these articles.

*Seville Exports.* The exports from Seville have decreased in value from 1,219,689*l.* in 1885 to 1,067,351*l.* in 1886—a fall of over 150,000*l.* The export trade to Great Britain shows a still larger decrease, the fall in value being 176,000*l.* Two articles suffice to explain this falling off—viz., olive oil and quicksilver. In 1885 190,960*l.* worth of olive oil was shipped to Great Britain, while in 1886 only 44,450*l.* worth went, and the respective values of quicksilver shipped during the same years were 256,050*l.* and 192,600*l.*

*Drug Imports.* The imports of drugs, chemicals, and oils into Seville amounted to 316,385*l.* in 1886, against 339,200*l.* in 1885, while Cadiz imported 44,830*l.* worth of these articles in 1886, and 40,797*l.* in the year before.

*Cochineal.* Although greatly on the decline, cochineal still continues to be the principal staple of export from the Canary Islands, and in 1886 the following quantities

were exported:—To England, 793,747 lbs., value 42,998*l.*; France, 251,097 lbs., 13,600*l.*; America, 192,825 lbs., 10,444*l.*; Germany, 180,801 lbs., 9,793*l.*; other countries, 31,228 lbs., 1,690*l.*; showing a total of 1,449,698 lbs., at a value of 78,525*l.*, against 2,061,472 lbs., value 127,023*l.*, in 1885. The average price during the year was calculated at about 1*s.* 1*d.* the lb., being 3*d.* lower in the lb. than in 1885.

#### UNITED STATES.

*Cotton Oil Corner.* Our consul at Galveston (Texas), after bemoaning the effect of the protective system upon foreign imports, remarks that, following on the heels of the protective tariff, are the private rings and corners, virtual monopolies, and all more or less prejudicial to producers, especially to agriculturists. Cotton-seed oil is a great export staple of Texas and other cotton-growing States, from which it is sent to Europe, chiefly to Italy, where it is refined, bottled, and sold all over the world as olive oil, for which it really forms a wholesome substitute.

Cotton seed was, therefore, not long ago a profitable article to the cotton farmer, but a syndicate has lately been formed, under the name of the American Oil Mill Company, which has bought up nearly every oil mill in Texas, and is now said to control nearly every oil mill in the Southern States. They have in consequence run down the price of seed from 87½, the normal figure, to 85 per ton, while they have run up the price of oil from 1*s.* 2½*d.* to 1*s.* 7½*d.*

Having purchased the mills, they close up such of them as are not convenient for their operations, and thereby lessen the rates of labour and expenditure, while they contrive to break down such opposition mills as hold out for a time by paying high prices for oil seed.

*Spirits of Turpentine.* Savannah is the principal port in the United States for the exportation of this article of commerce, and, from the very extensive pine forests which are annually being brought into use for this purpose, there is little reason to doubt that the trade will continue to grow. In 1885, the quantity exported was 2,800,838 gallons, value 183,402*l.*, and in 1886, 3,498,244 gallons, value 229,302*l.* Until a few years ago, the centre of this industry was at Wilmington, in North Carolina, but the exploitation of virgin forests in other States has drawn business away from the latter port, which shipped only 145,714*l.* worth of spirits of turpentine in 1886. The season closes in March. An attempt, which promises well, has been made by the distillers in Georgia and Florida to combine for controlling the supply and reducing the railway freights.

*"Horning" Resin.* The resin receipts at Wilmington fell from 350,031 barrels in 1885, to 312,647 barrels in 1886; the trade in fine resin, especially in Georgia, has been much hampered by a practice among unprincipled dealers of "horning," by which term is meant the fraudulent changing of class marks from low grades to higher ones, the "raising" of II rosin to IK by adding two horns, cutting off the last stroke of the grade M and changing it to an N, &c. An association of traders has now resolved to put an end to the "horning" practice which has been carried on for many years, principally at Savannah, where it was winked at by the Board of Trade and naval stores factors. There is a large demand for fine resins in America, especially in the Western and South-Western States.

*Tar Exports.* The production of tar in North Carolina has been much reduced during the past year, the receipts for 1885 being 80,722 barrels at Wilmington, and for 1886 only 63,120 barrels. This decrease is attributed to the great falling-off in the demand for export to the United Kingdom, which was formerly large, but which during the past two years has almost ceased. The North Carolina tar was used for smearing sheep, but principally exported to Great Britain, where the demand for this product has diminished, and the dealers now give preference to Stockholm or Archangel tar, because of late years the American article was very carelessly prepared for market. The barrels were of thin unseasoned staves, irregular in shape and size, and the tar mixed with water and sand. These objections have since been overcome by more careful inspection at Wilmington, by regulating the size by weight, and by stringent rules with reference to sand.



## Trade Notes.

MR. W. HICKMAN, the Pharmacy Stores, Eastover, Bridgewater, has opened a branch at Burnham, Somerset.

MR. FOSTER, Fore Street, Bridgewater, has closed his business in that town and removed to Roath, Cardiff.

MR. F. CAPEEN, of Bristol Road, Weston-super-Mare, has disposed of the chemist's branch of his business to Mr. A. Pumphrey.

MESSRS. GUYER & SHAPLEY, the Strand, Torquay, have opened a branch establishment at Cockington, a rising suburb.

MR. E. J. HARRIS has purchased the business lately carried on by Mr. S. Redman, Fore Street, Taunton, who has retired from the drug trade.

MR. JOHN SHEMMONDS, Wootton Place, Lansdowne, Bournemouth, has just completed extensive additions and alterations to his premises.

THE business lately carried on at 87 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, under the title of "Steel & Co.," is now being conducted by Mr. John M. Grant in his own name.

THE business which for a long time belonged to Mr. R. C. Furley, 1 Earl Grey Street, Edinburgh, has been recently disposed of, and will in future be conducted by Mr. G. M. Welch, who was formerly in business in Inverleith Row.

IN spite of the recent arrival of the "Drug Stores" at Bournemouth, Mr. J. D. Hazard is making considerable alterations and enlarging his shop to provide better accommodation for his increasing connection.

MESSRS. HALE & SON, drug brokers, 10 Fenchurch Avenue, announce that Mr. Thomas Hale, jun., has retired from the firm, and that Mr. Matthew G. Hale, the youngest son of the senior, is admitted as a partner in his brother's place.

MR. J. E. KERSEY, late dispenser at the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, and formerly employed by the Army Medical Department in the Crimea, has taken the business at 67 Stratford Road, Plaistow, hitherto carried on by Mr. Hayhoe.

THE old-established West Derby business of the late Mr. S. Maskery was on July 1 taken over by Mr. Thomas William Fidler, who has recently been an assistant in Mrs. Martin's establishment, The Crescent, Lime Street, Liverpool, and previously had an interest in the Queensferry Street business of Messrs. J. Robertson & Co., Edinburgh.

MESSRS. E. BOWERBANK & SONS, having decided to retire from the business of spirit-dealers, hitherto carried on by them at Sun Street, Bishopsgate, announce that the same has been absolutely sold and transferred to Messrs. Boord & Son, of Allhallows Lane, Upper Thames Street, and Bartholomew Close, London.

MR. J. HICKISSON is now offering two complete sets of indiarubber letters for marking linen with each 1s. bottle of his marking ink (the daughter of the late John Bond's).

EAU LODOÏS.—The French Hygienic Company, of Conduit Street, W., are the makers of several elegantly put-up preparations which are well worthy the attention of chemists. The preparations are remedies for baldness, and consist of Eau Lodoïs and Pomade Trichophile. The former is a delicately perfumed and clear solution, and the latter is a pink-coloured pomade, containing iodoform amongst other ingredients, but the odour of this body is perfectly disguised. Both preparations are used together, and are antiparasitic as well as stimulating in character. Bald-headed people are as a rule good customers, and chemists will find it advantageous to bring these preparations under their notice.

MR. W. F. HAYDON (Birmingham) informs us that he is well satisfied with the response to the circular and advertisement issued by him last week in reference to his Defence Agency, and he intimates that we may therefore regard his enterprise as an established institution. He finds, however, that the paragraph numbered 3 on the second page of his advertisement last week has led to some misunderstanding. The meaning is that up to September 1, 1887, any chemist

subscribing to the Agency will be entitled to share in its advantages at once, but that chemists joining after that date can only take advantage of the opportunities offered two months later. The reason for this condition is obvious.

MESSRS. BARNETT & FOSTER are introducing a valuable novelty which chemists may be able to make a good deal of. It is a nozzle which can be attached to the exit pipe of a syphon, whereby a spray of strongly carbonated water can be delivered, enabling the operator to convert at once a syphon of aerated water into a fire-extinguishing apparatus. The nozzles, we understand, will be supplied separately, and the sale of them ought to be not only profitable in itself, but should encourage the syphon business. Messrs. Barnett & Foster are getting out an effective show-card for these nozzles, and we will shortly give a drawing of them.

## Personalities.

PROFESSOR DE BARY, of Strasburg, has been appointed to the professorship of Botany in the University of Leipsig.

PROFESSOR A. H. JACKSON, of the Melbourne College of Pharmacy, Mr. M'Coy, and Dr. Orme Masson, recently appointed Professors in the Melbourne University, have been made Doctors of Science of that University.

AT the monthly meeting of the Royal Institution held on Monday, a donation of 100*l.* from Mr. Ludwig Mond to the fund for the promotion of experimental research was announced, and the special thanks of the members was awarded to the donor.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS has awarded silver medals to the following gentlemen amongst others:—To Mr. A. Gordon Salamon, for his paper on "Purity of Beer"; to Dr. Percy Frankland, for his paper on "The Living Organisms of the Air: the Effect of Place and Climate on their Prevalence"; to Mr. Richard Bannister, for his paper on "Colonial Wines"; and to Dr. George Watt, C.I.E., for his paper on "The Economical Condition of India."

## WILLS OF MEDICAL MEN.

THE will of Edward Nolloth, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., a retired Fleet Surgeon, R.N., late of 13, North Terrace, Camberwell, who died on April 29 last, was proved on May 11, the value of the personal estate amounting to upwards of 16,000*l.*

THE will of Alfred Meadows, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P., late of 27 George Street, Hanover Square, who died on April 19 last, was proved on May 11, the value of the personal estate amounting to over 15,000*l.*

THE will of William Tiffin Iliff, M.D., medical officer of Health for St. Mary's, Newington, late of 37, Kennington-park Road, Surrey, who died on April 25 last, was proved on May 20, the value of the personal estate exceeding 8,000*l.*

THE will of Mr. Ralph Beardshaw, late of 2 De Grey Terrace, Leeds, Yorkshire, surgeon, who died on March 2 last, was proved on May 11, the value of the personal estate amounting to upwards of 3,000*l.*

THE will of William Frederick Scoresby, M.D., late of Wawarsing, in the county of Ulster and State of New York, who died on November 17, 1884, was proved in London on May 14, the value of the personal estate exceeding 3,000*l.*

THE will of Mr. George Bacon Sweeting, surgeon, late of King's Lynn, Norfolk, who died on March 25 last, was proved on May 12, the value of the personal estate exceeding 2,000*l.*

THE will of Mr. William Henry Thornton, surgeon, late of Margate, Kent, who died on March 20 last, was proved on May 17, the value of the personal estate amounting to over 5,500*l.*

THE will of Geddes McKenzie Scott, M.D., late of 16 Stonebridge Park, Willesden, who died on April 11 last, was proved on May 19, the value of the personal estate amounting to 900*l.*

THE will of Vincent Ambler, M.D., late of 14 Colville Square, Bayswater, who died on February 6 last, was proved on May 13, the value of the personal estate exceeding 700*l.* —*Lancet.*



## THE ELEMENT OF TRUTH IN POPULAR BELIEFS.

DR. T. LAUDER BRUNTON recently gave a lecture on the subject quoted above before the Royal Institution of Great Britain. The following is an abstract of his lecture:—

The common saying "Seeing is believing" gives a clue to the origin of many popular delusions, for the evidence of our eyes is by no means to be trusted, and unless corrected by the observations derived from other senses will often prove deceptive. Some popular beliefs are correct in regard to fact, but erroneous in regard to interpretation. Some others, which in their present form are absurd, are the survivals or modifications of other beliefs which were true.

In endeavouring to discover the element of truth in any belief we may be aided by tracing its history backwards in time, or by comparing it with allied forms of belief in different places.

As an example of the historical method we may take the belief that horse-flesh is unfit for food, a delusion which arose from the circumstance that horse-flesh was unfit for Christian food, inasmuch as the horse was sacred to Odin, and eating its flesh was a sign of paganism.

As an illustration of the comparative method we may take the belief that a person cannot die if any door in the house be locked. Other forms of the belief are that a person cannot die as long as the doors or windows of the room in which he is lying are closed, and observation enables us to ascertain that this is due to the fact that the room is thus kept warm, and life therefore prolonged.

The belief that disease may be cured by hanging up rags in a sacred place may be connected by intermediate forms with the fact that infectious diseases may be conveyed from one to another by articles of clothing.

Some omens probably have an historical origin. Others depend on physical conditions, such as stumbling on leaving the threshold as an indication of coming misfortune. This may be regarded as simply an evidence of a deficiency in the motor power of the individual which may cause him to fail in an emergency.

Others again may be referred to indistinct sensations or subconscious conditions. Dreams are frequently influenced by the circumstances of the dreamer, either at the time or some days before, and hallucinations as well as visions of ghosts and fairies may be regarded as forms of waking dreams. The signs which were regarded in the Middle Ages as distinctive of witchcraft are now looked upon as symptoms of hysteria, and the condition of hysteria may perhaps be defined to be one in which impressions originating within the body itself tend to overpower those transmitted from without by the usual sensory channels.

The phenomena of thought reading and of the divining rod may in many cases be explained by the fact that sensory impressions may be received and may lead to action without rising into complete consciousness in [the individual who receives them.

## NEW COMPANIES.

THE NANTWICH BRINE AND MEDICINAL BATH COMPANY (LIMITED).—Registered by Hooper & Son, Ludgate Hill, E.C., with a capital of 10,000*l.*, in 5*l.* shares. Object, to establish a business indicated in the title at Snow Hill, Nantwich, Cheshire.

BRITISH AND COLONIAL PURE ALCOHOL COMPANY (LIMITED).—It is proposed by this company to acquire inventions for distilling alcohols, and particularly the patents of Mr. J. A. F. Bang and Mr. M. C. Ruffin. Capital 450,000*l.*, in 5*l.* shares, whereof 80,000 are 10*l.* per cent. preference shares.

OSSIDINE (COLE'S PATENT), LIMITED.—Registered by J. A. Barturin, with a capital of 60,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Object, to acquire and purchase, either in whole or in part, a certain specific for an embrocation for the cure of splint, ring bone, side bone, spavin, all other bone enlargements, sore shins, and other ailments to which horses are liable, and now known as or called Ossidine. The number of directors shall not be less than three nor more than seven, and the first shall be appointed by the subscribers to the memorandum of association, who will also determine the remuneration to be paid to the board.

## Gazette.

## PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

BALL, J. A., & ROGERSON, J. T., Heaton Norris, physicians.  
BARNES, HUDSON, & Co., Stockton-on-Tees, drysalters.

BURTON, WM., BURTON, FRED, BURTON, CHAS., & BURTON, JOHN, Green Street, Bethnal Green, Middlesex, orchil cudbear extract of safflower manufacturers, so far as regards Wm Burton.

DAVIES & BRERETON, Newport, Salop, and elsewhere, surgeons.

EARLES & KING, Liverpool, seed crushers, as far as regards William King.

GOODAIRE, JOHN HEATON, GOODAIRE, JOSEPH, & GOODAIRE, BENJAMIN, Rastrick, Yorkshire, chemical manufacturers, so far as regards Benjamin Goodaire.

HEDLEY & WIDDOWS, Liverpool, chicory and spice merchants.

PRESOTT & BOLTON, Cheetham, Manchester, soap manufacturers.

STAGG, R., & MOSS, J., 15 Laurence Pountney Lane, City, druggists.

THOMAS, WILLIAM LANHAM, & KINNIER, FRANCIS WILLIAM EDWARD, Horsham, Sussex, surgeons.

VIGIS, J. L., & DALE, F. G., under the style of Lewis Vigis, Bath, chemists.

## THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1883.

## RECEIVING ORDERS.

LAING, JOSEPH, Stapenhill, Derbyshire, drug and general storekeeper.

WHATLEY, JOHN JAMES, late of 5 Fen Court, Fenchurch Street, colonial broker, June 27, High Court of Justice in Bankruptcy.

## PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

SHORT, RICHARD HABBERFIELD, SHORT, GEORGE, & DEYKIN, WILLIAM REDFERN, 108 Fleet Street, merchants, July 26, at 34 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

WHATLEY, JOHN JAMES, late 5 Fen Court, Fenchurch Street, colonial broker, July 19, at 34 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

## ADJUDICATION.

WHATLEY, JOHN JAMES, late 5 Fen Court, Fenchurch Street, colonial broker.

## NOTICES OF DIVIDENDS.

DOBSON, GEORGE, 77 Windsor Road, Penarth, chemical manufacturer, 2*s.* 6*d.* (composition), July 2, at the Official Receiver's, 3 Crockherbtown, Cardiff.

PLATT, CHARLES ROWLEY, 21 King's Road, Chelsea, chemist. First and final div. of 3¼*d.*, July 4, at 4 Coleman Street, Bank, E.C.

## MARRIAGES.

[*Notices of Marriages and Deaths are inserted free if sent with proper authentication.*]

MARSHALL—SIMPSON.—On July 5, at the Parish Church, Marylebone, Jos. Jervison Marshall, of Beverley, pharmaceutical chemist, to Martha (Bessie) Simpson, Marylebone Road, London, N.W.

SNOOK—MALLETT.—On June 25, at Holy Trinity Church, Bessborough Gardens, London, by the Rev. R. H. Sinclair, Joseph John Snook, 239 Oxford Street, London, chemist and druggist, to Edith, daughter of John Mallett, Esq., Bath.

DOCTOR, who wants a specimen for his lecture: "Let me have a packet of Blank's vermin-killer?" Chemist's assistant: "Is it for yourself, sir?"



## Trade Report.

*Note to Retail Buyers:—It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk. In many cases allowances have to be added before ordinary prices can be ascertained. Frequently goods must be picked and sorted to suit the demands of the retail trade, causing much labour and the accumulation of rejections, not all of which are suitable, even for manufacturing purposes.*

*It should also be recollected that for many articles the range of quality is very wide.*

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., July 7.

THE Board of Trade returns published this afternoon reveal a very unsatisfactory total of outward trade for the month of June, partly, perhaps, owing to the interruption of business all over the country by the Jubilee holidays. Our national imports during June amounted to 27,555,217*l.* value, a decrease of about 5½ per cent. as compared to June, 1886. This decrease is brought about mostly by a fall of the imports of raw material for textile manufactures and of chemicals; but there is an increase in the imports of manufactured articles and of oils. The exports of British and Irish produce fell from 18,536,076*l.* in June, 1886, to 17,320,441 in June, 1887, a decrease of 1,215,635, or about 6½ per cent., the heaviest fall being in yarns and textile fabrics, of which about 12 per cent. less was shipped abroad—a decline so heavy that no Jubilee festivities alone will account for it. In re-exports of foreign and colonial produce alone June shows off well, the figures being 4,246,590*l.* in 1886, and 4,868,505*l.* in 1887, an advance of no less than 14 per cent. Turning to the results of the outward trade during the first six months of the current year we are pleased to see that the unfavourable trading of last month has not been able to counterbalance the good results of the previous five months. Our imports during the half-year have risen from 170,840,643*l.* in 1886 to 178,867,159*l.* in 1887, an increase of 8,026,516*l.*, the principal advance being in articles of food and drink, raw materials for textile industries (over 10 per cent.), with about 2 per cent. on manufactured articles. Of chemicals we imported about 7 per cent. less, and oils also show a slight decrease. Our exports of British and Irish produce have risen from 103,361,762*l.* in the first half-year of 1886 to 104,295,890*l.* in the same period of 1887; but this increase, of which two-thirds comes to the credit of the metal industry, amounts to barely 1 per cent. The exports of chemicals and pharmaceutical articles, including medicines, are anything but satisfactory. From January to July, 1886, we shipped 3,368,265*l.* worth of these commodities, and in the corresponding period of the present year only 3,360,124*l.* worth, or less by 2½ per cent. Re-exports of foreign and colonial produce have risen from 27,066,711*l.* to 30,159,298*l.*, an increase of over 11 per cent. Towards the close of this week business in Mincing Lane has become rather brisker again, and to-day some few articles, especially in chemicals, are quite lively. Glycerine, for instance, has been raised in price by all the manufacturers, but as usual second-hand holders are still able to undersell the makers. The importers of quicksilver have to-day raised their price to 6*l.* 15*s.* per bottle, and mercurials will probably be quoted 1*l.* per lb. dearer all round. Cream of tartar and lead acetate are dearer, and for borax, although manufacturers have not yet raised their quotations, higher prices are asked by second-hand holders. The opium reports from Smyrna are still of a nature favourable to the "bull" party, but so far as we can ascertain not much actual business is doing here in the drug. Meanwhile all morphia makers have raised their price to 7*s.* 6*d.* per oz. Some ipecacuanha has privately changed hands at a slight advance on the last auction price, belladonna root is becoming scarce, and honey attracts increasing attention, especially at Liverpool. Gambier is very firmly held, and among chemicals soda bicarbonate and washing soda, as well as sulphur, are apparently in a sound position. A good business has also been done in

tartaric acid. On July 1 a decline of 1*d.* per oz. in the price of iodine brought down the value of all iodides. We have heard it stated in various quarters that our recent publication of the essential features of the iodine convention (see THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, June 18, page 749) has not been without influence upon this occurrence. The position of iodine revealed in that article certainly shows the present price to be far above the proper value if judged by the law of supply and demand only. The cinchona sales on Tuesday resulted in a decline, while shellac is also 1*s.* per cwt. cheaper since last week. Cocoa butter, as might have been expected, has declined in value. The Bulgarian rose crop is admitted to have been a very good one, and would warrant lower quotations for the essential oil. Spices are mostly easier, but pimento is an exception.

ACID (CITRIC).—At present there is very little business doing, but holders remain firm at 1*s.* 8½*d.* per lb.; it is said that a few days ago a large order from the Continent, limited at 1*s.* 8*d.* per lb., had to be refused, as there were no sellers of a quantity at that price.

ACID (PYROGALLIC).—English is quoted at 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb.

ACID (TARTARIC).—There is a very good demand, and a fairly extensive business is being done, at 1*s.* 6½*d.* for foreign, and 1*s.* 7*d.* for English acid.

AMMONIA COMPOUNDS.—Carbonate remains quiet at 4*d.* per lb., less a heavy discount. Sal ammoniac is steady, at 36*s.* for first and 34*s.* for second quality, but orders are not very plentiful. Sulphate is held at 12*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to 12*l.* 15*s.* for 24 per cent. grey in London, and at 12*l.* 10*s.* in Hull.

ANISE.—A fair trade is doing in Russian seed at 25*s.* per cwt., while good Spanish seed is still quoted at 60*s.* per cwt. It is stated that the prospect of the new crop is a good one, but meanwhile stocks are getting low.

ANTIMONY.—Black is quoted at 23*s.*, and yellow at 34*s.* per cwt. For powdered antimony about 2*s.* extra must be paid.

ARSENIC is firm, powdered white in barrels quoted at 11*s.* 3*d.* to 11*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. landed.

BALSAM COPAIBA.—At Liverpool good bright Maranham is quoted at 1*s.* 8½*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb., but there is very little demand.

BELLADONNA.—Root is becoming scarce, and more money must be paid for it. The new leaves will shortly be gathered, and promise well, so that lower prices may prevail ere long.

BLEACHING POWDER is fairly steady at 8*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

BORAX.—It appears that second-hand holders are running out of stock, and consequently, in face of a good demand, higher prices are now asked. The makers, however, maintain their quotations at from 28*l.* to 30*l.* per ton.

CAMPHOR.—Refiners are still busy, and quote 11½*d.* to 1*s.* 2½*d.* per lb. for cakes, 11½*d.* for bells, and 10*d.* for flowers.

CANARY SEED.—Values are pretty well maintained, though the Spanish and Morocco varieties are quoted slightly lower. No fresh supplies have come to hand, while the demand has been moderately good, partly owing to purchases for some of the Continental ports, where stocks seem low. From Turkey the first reports about the new crop have come to hand; they speak of some damage resulting from the drought prevailing there, but a fair yield may yet be expected. There has hardly been any alteration in value; Turkish seed is quoted at 43*s.* to 45*s.*, Morocco 48*s.* to 50*s.*, Dutch small-grained 49*s.* to 50*s.*, ditto large-grained 52*s.* to 54*s.*, Spanish 53*s.* to 60*s.* per 464 lbs. ex warehouse.

CARAWAY SEED.—Business is of a very restricted character, and offers of new crop seed for forward delivery awaken very little interest. Values, however, keep fairly steady at the recent advance or thereabouts. Fine Dutch seed is quoted at 31*s.* to 32*s.* per cwt., Russian at 27*s.* and Mogador at 26*s.* to 27*s.* per cwt.

CASCARILLA MOSS.—Four bales of this article, imported from Lanzarote, were offered by auction on Tuesday, but no bid being forthcoming the parcel was bought in at a nominal figure.



**CINCHONA BARK.**—At the public sales held on Tuesday, after an interval of four weeks between the preceding auctions, a total supply of 7,649 packages was offered, over one-half of which consisted of old South American cinchonas, for which the demand is very slight. The 2,392 packages Ceylon bark offered were mostly so'd, but there was a marked absence of competition, and the advance established at the last auctions was partly lost. There was a good selection of Indian, and a very fine assortment of Java barks, for which relatively good prices were paid. The unit ran from 2½d. to 2¾d. The following transactions took place:—

Ceylon bark: *Succirubra*, natural dust, at 1d. to 3d.; branch, 1½d. to 3d.; stem chips, weak to good, 3d. to 6d.; spoke-shavings, weak to good bright, 3½d. to 6d.; root, dull to fine, 3d. to 9d.; quill, dull broken to fairly bold druggists', 5½d. to 9d.; renewed, woody ordinary to fine rich shavings, 3½d. to 1s. 1d. *Officinalis*, natural dust, 4d.; chips, 3d. to 11½d.; spoke-shavings, 4d. to 9½d.; root, 8d. to 1s. 1d.; renewed, ordinary to very fine rich, mostly shavings, 7½d. to 1s. 6d.

Indian bark: *Succirubra*, branch, 1d. to 3d.; chips, 3½d. to 5d.; spoke-shavings, 4d. to 6d.; root, 3d. to 5½d.; quill, 6½d. to 11d. *Hybrid*, branch, 1½d. to 3d.; chips, 5d. to 5½d.; spoke-shavings, 4½d. to 6d.; root, 4d. to 10d. *Officinalis*, chips, good bright, but rather small, 5d. to 6d.; renewed, ditto, 10d.

Java bark: Fine but rather dusty *Ledger* branch, 6d.; branch chips, ordinary to good, 3½d. to 8d.; good to fine stem chips, 10d. to 1s. 4d.; and some lots very fine quality, containing 10 per cent. quinine sulphate, 2s. 1d. to 2s. 2d. per lb. Root fetched from 8½d. to 1s. 3d. *Succirubra*, chips, 5d.; root, 5½d.; and ordinary short quill, 8d.

West African bark: Six packages very common, partly damaged quill, imported *via* Lisbon, sold at 1½d. to 3d. per lb.

**COCOA BUTTER.**—At the monthly auctions a decline of about 25 per cent. in the value was established. A supply of 350 cases, of 2 cwt. each, Cadbury's brand, was offered for sale and disposed of at 1s. 1½d. to 1s. per lb., against 1s. 3½d. to 1s. 3¼d. per lb. obtained at the June auctions.

**COPPER (SULPHATE).**—Ordinary firsts are worth 13l. 17s. 6d. to 14l., with a good demand.

**CORIANDER SEED.**—In Italy the new crop will, it is said, be a very short one, the low prices prevailing last year having caused growers to restrict the area of cultivation. The new crop is being gradually bought up by speculators.

**CREAM OF TARTAR** is dearer, and firsts are scarce on the spot at 125l. per ton.

**CUMIN SEED** very firm and scarce. *Mogador* is worth 40s. per cwt.

**EPSOM SALTS** are quoted at 12s. per cwt. in 1-oz. packets.

**FENNEL SEED** remains very quiet at 18s. to 22s. for *East Indian*. Best *German* seed is held at 26s. per cwt.

**FENUGREEK SEED** is held very firmly, supplies being small. The ruling value for fair rather stony to good seed remains 7s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. per cwt.

**GAMBER** remains very firm. Sales have been made at 22s. 3d. per cwt. for block now landing, at 22s. 6d. per cwt. for block on the spot, with re-weight, and at 21s. 10½d. for arrival, June-July shipment.

**GLYCERINE.**—All manufacturers have raised their quotations, though the prices quoted for the different brands vary from 72l. 10s. to 90l. for 1,260 S.G. It is said that no glycerine of that degree is obtainable under 70l. per ton.

**GUINEA GRAINS** quiet at 16s. to 17s. per cwt.

**GUM ARABIC.**—The market remains fairly steady, but business is of a somewhat dull character, and though some holders of high-class gums ask an advance upon recent rates, there are plenty of parcels of ordinary quality offering. Really fine *Australian* gum is much wanted, but other varieties are abundantly offering. About 200 packages *Australian* gum will be offered by auction to-day. In *Barbary gums* sales of *Amrad* have been made at 75s. to 77s. 6d. per cwt., but the demand is slow. Brown gum is scarce, a few packages have been sold at 5l. per cwt. for ordinary quality, and for single packages a trifle more has been paid. Of *East*

*Indian gums* good *Aden* is scarce and wanted, as are also fine *Amrad* and *Oomra*; ordinary *Amrad* shows no change. *Ghatti* gum is inquired for, and holders are very firm. The market for *Senegal gum* is firmer, holders now asking 6l. 7s. 6d. per cwt. for *Galam*. A few days ago the following prices were paid for *Turkey sorts*:—Fair brownish soft, not dusty, 12l. to 12l. 15s.; good pale, slightly hard with little dust, 13l. to 13l. 7s. 6d. per cwt.

**HENBANE.**—The English crop of biennial leaves has been of satisfactory quality and abundant, prices have therefore declined considerably.

**HONEY.**—The demand for *Californian* in Liverpool is still good, and holders now ask higher rates. From 20s. 6d. to 30s. has been paid for very ordinary to good quality.

**IODIDES.**—Resublimed iodine is held at 12s. 4d. per lb.; iodoform, powdered or in crystals, at 15s. per lb.; potassium iodide, 10s. 6d. per lb.; iodide of mercury, red 8s. 9d. per lb., green 7s. 9d. per lb.

**IODINE** was reduced in price from 9d. to 8d. per oz. on July 1.

**IPECACUANHA** has changed hands privately at somewhat firmer rates, 6s. 6d. per lb. having been paid for some good annulated root which was bought in at last week's drug sales.

**JUNIPER BERRIES.**—In Southern Europe the new crop is said to be a fairly good one.

**LEAD (ACETATE).**—The advance established in consequence of the increased price of spirit in Germany continues. *Foreign* acetate is very scarce, best white being held for 26l. per ton.

**MORPHIA.**—All makers now quote 7s. 6d. per oz., but second-hand lots may be secured at lower rates.

**MUSTARD SEED.**—*White* is in good demand, consequent upon the dry weather. Fine quality fetches fully last prices of 9s. to 11s. per bushel for English seed, and 8s. to 9s. for foreign seed. *East Indian brown* seed remains very firm.

**OILS (ESSENTIAL).**—It appears that the French reports respecting the shortness of the *Neroli* crop have been slightly exaggerated, and to-day finest *Bigarade* from petals is still quoted at 15s. per oz. The distilling of other French essential oils proceeds satisfactorily. *Otto of Rose.*—As mentioned in our last report the distilling of otto of rose in Bulgaria has been attended by favourable weather, and the yield of otto is somewhat larger than last year, viz. 85,000 oz. By the middle of July the new prices will be fixed, the value varying by as much as 25 per cent., according to the precise locality in which the oil has been distilled, the districts on the Balkan slope generally yielding a better oil than those in the low-lying country.

**OIL (OLIVE).**—The tendency on our market shows no improvement, and the quotations are almost nominal, say, *Spanish* at 35l., *Sicilian* at 32l. 10s. to 33l. *Mogador* at 30l. 10s. to 31l. In Italy, however, the market has assumed a firmer tone, and a rise of from 10s. to 15s. per tun is reported. The Italian import duty on seed oils and foreign olive oils has been brought up to a uniform rate of about 6l. 7s. per tun, being an increase on the old duties of about 3l. 13s. and 5l. 2s. sterling per tun respectively. It is at present doubtful whether the new tariff comes into force at once or at the end of the year; but, with the prospect sooner or later of a greatly enhanced local consumption of Italian olive oils and a higher range of prices, the Italian arsenals and railway companies have bought largely, say 1,200 to 1,400 tuns of last crop oils from Bari, Brindisi, Taranto, and the interior. This has greatly reduced the available quantity of good burning oils suitable for shipment to Russia.

**OILS (VARIOUS).**—*Cocunut* oil remains steady, with a fairly brisk business. On the spot Ceylon in pipes is held at 24l. 5s.; in hogsheads at 26l. *Cochin* firm at 31l. to 32l. on the spot, and *Mauritius* at 26l. *Crude Cottonseed* oil is somewhat lower, being now held at 19l. 7s. 6d. on the spot London, and 18l. at Hull. Refined oil steady, London spot 21l. 10s. to 22l. 5s. *Linseed* oil steady, at 21l. 15s. to 22l. 2s. 6d., according to packing. *Rape* oil remains quiet, English brown at 22l. 10s. and refined at 24l. *Turpentine* again firmer, at 27s. 3d. to 27s. 4½d. for American spirits on the spot. *Petroleum* is slightly cheaper, but closes fairly



steady at 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>d. to 5<sup>5</sup>/<sub>16</sub>d. for American, and 5d. for Russian oil on the spot.

OPIMUM remains very firm, and the news from the producing districts is such as to lead to the belief that higher prices will prevail as the season advances. The total result of the crop, including Salonica, is estimated at about 2,000 cases, though some reports place it as high as 2,500 cases. New Salonica is offering at 21s. per lb. for arrival. It is thought that the crop of that variety will not exceed 300 cases (such, at least, is the estimate of a well-known dealer who has personally visited the district of Salonica), but a short time ago it was still believed that 600 cases would be obtained from there. *Karahissar* is not quoted under 17s. per lb., while 20s. is now wanted for *soft shipping* opium, though the price last paid appears to have been 18s. Some *Persian* opium might probably still be had at 15s. The Smyrna prices are above those quoted on our market. There is not much business doing either here or on the Continent, but a considerable quantity has yet to be delivered by Smyrna, it is said, for American account. Smyrna advices state that the opium market there continues to rise. There are few sellers, holders being anxious to await the course of events on the London market. The weather in the principal growing districts of Asia Minor has been very cold lately, with an abundance of rain, which, falling during the harvest, has aggravated rather than mended matters so far as opium is concerned. In the district of Salonica there have also been heavy rains, and buyers are showing much anxiety to secure supplies.

ORRIS ROOT is reported firmly held in Italy, and business has been done at advancing rates. Finest *Florentine* root is quoted in Leghorn at 27s. 6d. to 29s. per cwt.; ordinary at 23s. 6d. to 25s.; and *Veronese* at 12s. to 16s. per cwt., according to quality.

POTASH COMPOUNDS.—*Bicarbonate* in powder is worth 35s. per cwt. *Bichromate* is firmly held at the recent advance to 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per lb. *Chlorate* is not in much demand, and may be obtained at 6d. per lb. for prompt delivery. *Yellow prussiate* is steady at 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per lb.

QUICKSILVER.—To-day the importers raised their price to 6l. 15s. per bottle. *Mercurial* will probably be advanced 1d. per lb. in price to-morrow.

QUILLAYA BARK remains steady at 14l. 17s. 6d. to 15l. per ton in Liverpool.

QUININE remains extremely dull, and quotations may be considered unchanged.

SHELLAC.—Prices are again quoted 1s. per cwt. lower, both for *button lac* and for *second orange*. At the public sales on Tuesday, 378 chests were offered, of which only 238 were disposed of, mostly without reserve, although holders showed themselves rather anxious to realise. The following prices were paid:—*Second Orange*: CB in diamond, fair, at 45s. to 45s. 6d.; ZZ in diamond, lively colour, at 43s. 6d. *Garnet*, good free AC at 40s. 6d. *Button lac*, fair first at 51s.; fair second at 45s. to 45s. 6d.; third, good to dark, at 39s. 6d. to 36s. 6d.; and common fourth at 29s. 6d. to 30s.

SODA COMPOUNDS.—*Ash* is still held at 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> per degree landed. *Bicarbonate* firmly held at 6l. 17s. 6d. to 7l. per ton. *Caustic soda* is steady, though with little business, at 7l. 15s. for cream, and 8l. for white, 60 per cent. *Crystals* are very firm, closing at 2l. 11s. ex ship in London, and 2l. 4s. on the Tyne. *Nitrate of soda* quit, at 8l. 15s. to 9l.

SPICES.—At yesterday's auctions *Arrowroot* sold flatly without any improvement. *Cassia ligna* is still very neglected at 24s. per cwt. Damaged Zanzibar *Chillies* were disposed of at 29s. per cwt. For *Cloves* there was no demand at the prices asked by holders, and the few lots offering were bought in at nominal rates. *Clove stems* sell at from 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. to 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per lb. for ordinary to good Zanzibar. For *Cochin Ginger* lower prices must be accepted in order to induce buyers to come forward, the decline averaging 1s. to 2s. per cwt. on ordinary and medium qualities. Bengal and Japan ginger are also cheaper, but the Jamaica variety is firm, good bright washed having sold up to 61s. per cwt. *Mace* fairly steady at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 10d. per lb. for ordinary to good bright West Indian. *Nutmegs* in good supply, and selling at lower figures. *Pepper* was sparingly represented at the auctions. Some

ordinary black Rhio sold at 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per lb. without reserve, and ditto Singapore at 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per lb. *Pimento* is in request, and has again slightly advanced; ordinary grey dusty to good Jamaica is now worth from 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. to 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per lb.

SULPHUR is in better demand, holders now requiring 8s. 6d. to 10s. for *flowers* and 7s. 6d. per cwt. for *rolls*.

THYME SEED still offers at 15s. to 16s. per cwt.

WAX (CARNAUBA).—A better demand exists at Liverpool, 37s. 6d. to 45s. having been paid for fair to good yellowish.

#### LONDON DRUG STATISTICS.

THE following figures refer to the stocks of the principal drugs in the Port of London on June 30, 1887, and to the imports and deliveries from January 1 to June 30, as compared with the same period of the preceding year:—

Article	Stocks		Imported		Delivered	
	1887	1886	1887	1886	1887	1886
Aloes .....cs	4,382	3,736	1,675	1,431	2,503	2,174
" .....kegs	8	12	41	—	45	12
" .....gourds	240	262	4	229	10	127
Anise, Star .. chts	283	317	117	62	73	183
Arrowroot ....cks	12,374	15,054	7,807	10,813	7,206	7,122
" .....bxs & tins	8,078	2,562	6,389	1,286	2,816	1,788
Balsams .....cks, &c.	695	380	400	258	396	446
Bark, Medicinal						
cks & cs	9,737	7,155	16,699	14,634	14,835	11,554
srns, &c.	51,173	58,484	23,089	20,839	26,382	20,037
Borax.....pkgs	2,007	792	1,610	674	807	570
Calumba .... "	1,662	1,889	993	1,207	863	245
Campbor .... "	4,339	6,281	3,391	3,214	5,228	4,057
Cardamoms ..chts	1,092	857	2,441	1,803	2,073	1,781
Cochineal ....srns	5,786	7,983	1,558	3,192	2,634	2,889
Coc. Ind. bgs, & ..	627	594	294	304	107	44
Cream of Tartar cks	11	42	13	68	13	74
Cubebs .....bgs	143	104	277	160	226	69
Dragon's Blood chts	138	133	89	77	83	74
Galls, China....cs	3,555	4,949	3,336	3,740	2,362	1,983
Turky & Prsn sks	6,461	6,400	4,588	8,545	2,058	4,800
Gum—						
Ammoniac pkgs	300	301	128	263	113	112
Animi & Copal pkgs						
Arabic..... "	12,096	19,366	7,788	22,748	10,902	12,683
Asafetida.... "	597	1,200	3	831	183	441
Benjamin .. "	1,925	2,199	1,364	1,950	1,076	1,337
Damar .... "	4,387	6,203	2,633	6,002	3,048	3,646
Galbanum....pkgs	—	10	1	—	1	5
Gamboge .. "	196	182	148	246	155	203
Guaiaicum .. "	86	20	30	6	20	24
Kino ..... "	69	143	12	9	35	31
Kowrie .....tns	740	1,451	950	955	1,029	1,531
Mastic ....pkgs	118	134	8	60	16	44
Myrrh..... "	353	283	411	220	286	256
Olibanum .. "	4,510	5,688	4,335	3,036	3,283	2,275
Sandarac .. "	1,385	1,530	923	1,192	784	1,010
Tragacanth .. "	1,084	1,433	1,740	1,648	1,255	1,064
Indigo, East Indian						
chts	16,398	18,978	15,707	18,284	9,911	8,441
" Spanish srns	2,628	3,173	3,661	4,080	2,965	2,406
Ipecacuanha						
cks & bgs	90	153	180	261	193	330
Jalap .....bls	171	214	56	129	39	112
Lac Dye .....chts	7,612	8,069	28	293	227	341
Myrat. planes ..tns	8,552	8,240	6,284	8,585	5,688	6,610
Nux Vomica pkgs	479	873	214	1,083	434	1,194
Oils—						
Anise .....cs	183	305	110	257	93	233
Cassia ..... "	174	183	210	277	118	254
Castor .....cks	579	517	354	504	381	523
" .....cs	5,238	6,669	3,646	6,326	4,786	6,628
Cocoa-nut....tns	2,289	1,634	3,042	2,316	2,037	2,537
Olive .....cks, &c.	1,300	2,367	2,946	7,707	2,483	6,658
Palm .....tns	176	176	57	101	60	168
Opium .....chts, &c.	1,839	1,810	870	477	1,179	811
Rhubarb.....chts	1,552	1,615	635	552	955	958
Safflower....pkgs	239	354	73	189	257	167
Saltpetre ....tns	1,617	1,510	3,504	3,434	2,879	4,687
Soda Nitrate...tns	2,757	5,763	9,185	8,188	11,551	7,752
Sarsaparilla....bls	463	542	744	842	653	775
Senna .... bls, &c.	626	444	1,433	492	1,637	756
Shellac .....chts	71,588	65,080	34,304	31,335	22,759	24,230
Sticklac ..chts, &c.	4,368	4,987	557	523	398	931
Gambier .....tns	1,949	1,768	6,056	7,355	5,752	6,632
Cutch ..... "	945	2,493	1,326	1,895	1,719	1,522
Turmeric .... "	1,640	1,625	819	1,752	1,095	985
Vermilion,chts, &c.	13	82	8	129	49	47
Wax, bees' ..bls & srns	815	1,428	357	979	590	671
" .....cks & cs	1,506	1,349	1,444	1,378	1,309	1,506
" .....cakes	3	105	11	117	—	16
Wax, Japan....pkgs	976	1,715	454	1,234	825	1,230





### The Chemists and Druggists' Trade Association.

SIR,—As mover of the first amendment at the meeting of the Trade Association in London, I, perhaps, may be allowed a short space in your valuable columns. In my remarks in support of my amendment, which was, "That an attempt be made to reorganise the Association on a more economic basis," I tried to point out that, with judicious economy, the Association might be carried on satisfactorily. This amendment received the support of Mr. Hampson, and was, in fact, carried by a large majority. Mr. Hampson afterwards moved a further amendment, which I voted against, feeling that it was quite impracticable to be carried out with an executive which had already pronounced in favour of self-immolation.

I can only say I regret very much the decision arrived at by the Birmingham meeting, feeling strongly that an association with an income of 700*l.* a year was capable of good and useful work; and this view has been confirmed and strengthened by many letters I have received on the subject.

Yours truly,

Coventry, July 4.

W. F. WILEY.

### Urine as a Remedy.

SIR,—Mr. J. Henry Bell asks for confirmation of the survival of the custom of drinking urine as a "remedy" amongst English people. I know persons who, when babies have thrush, wipe out their babies' mouths with the napkins they have "wetted." Urine is drunk in this part of the world as a "remedy" for boils by some people who—one would fancy—ought to know better.

An acquaintance on whom I can rely tells me that she knew a person who, when suffering from "king's evil," drank his own urine, and who claimed for this peculiar "remedy" a cure. Also that a young woman of her acquaintance drank her own urine as a "remedy" for "yellow jaundice."

Now for a disgusting example of its use. A friend of mine told me only this morning that a young man, whose name he mentioned, drank his own urine as a "remedy" for gonorrhoea; at the same time my friend stated, "Of course it did not cure him."

Yours faithfully,

HEDLEY V. RICKARD.

33 Tavistock Place, Plymouth, July 6.

### Temperance Beer.

SIR,—About eighteen months ago I saw repeated advertisements in the papers offering a prize of 700*l.* for the best summer beverage, non-intoxicating, to be palatable like a glass of beer, with no after-effects. Do you know who won the prize, and if the beverage is sold by any firm?

H. T. W. (124/35.)

[Perhaps some temperance man can tell us what became of this prize.]

### How the Hat was Burned.

SIR,—I am another victim to the power of the sun while acting upon a glass carboy in the window. I have had no less than five hats burned. For a long time I observed every new hat I bought to be burned on the side, a streak about three or four inches, just as if a hot poker had been drawn across. One day my apprentice saw my hat in a blaze in the window. The mystery was at once solved.

Horncastle.

J. H. ELMITT.

### A Trophy.

SIR,—I see the Salvation Army leaders at Glastonbury are advertising services conducted by "a converted chemist."

Isn't this, as the Yankees say, "playing it rather low down" on an honourable profession? Or are chemists, as a rule, pretty bad down there? One wonders!

I am, &c.,

SAL SAP. (123/50.)

### DISPENSING NOTES.

[The opinion of practical readers is invited on subject's discussed under this heading.]

#### Sarsaparilla Mixture.

SIR,—We prepare dec. sarsae co. conc. 1 to 7 as follows:—

Ext. sarsae comp.	..	..	..	3ij.
Ext. sarsae simp.	..	..	..	3iss.
Ext. glycyrrh.	..	..	..	3i.
Aq. destill.	..	..	..	Oij.

Boil for five minutes, or until dissolved, and on cooling add

Spt. vini rect.	..	..	..	5vj.
Ol. sassafras	..	..	..	gtt. x.

Dissolve oil in S.V.R., when quite cold strain through muslin.

This deposits very much on keeping. What is the cause? Can it be prevented?

C. E. L. (124/37.)

#### Liq. Opii Sedativus.

SIR,—Battley's solution of opium was, I believe, known from the first as Liq. Opii Sed., and therefore this title belongs to it; there is little doubt about its peculiar properties. I have a customer who for years has consumed, on an average, 4 oz. per eight days; he has tried ext. opii fluid., B.P., and many other preparations of opium, on the score of economy, but none of them do for him what "Battley's" does, and he will not accept anything but that preparation now.

W. B. (125/10.)

["W. B." confirms the statement that Messrs. Bullock were the makers of liquor quinae.]

#### Æther. Chlor. Duncan.

Do you consider this preparation double the strength of spt. chloroform., B.P.?

H. B. (125/13.)

[It is generally understood that Duncan's preparation contains one of chloroform in ten, but we do not know whether the supposition has an authoritative basis or not. Some years ago Dr. Thresh examined commercial samples of the preparation, including Duncan's, but the strength of the latter was not specifically stated. Out of fifteen specimens, one contained 12.25 per cent. of chloroform, two 9.5 per cent., and two 9.25 per cent. Of the remainder, seven contained less than 5 per cent. of chloroform. The conclusion which Dr. Thresh arrived at regarding chloric ethers generally is contained in the following sentences:—"There seems to be an impression abroad that this preparation is much richer in chloroform [than the B.P. spirit]. This is undoubtedly a fallacy." But we are still in the dark as to the actual strength of Duncan's preparation. It would be advantageous to have the matter cleared up.]

#### Liq. Quinae.

SIR,—The prescription I sent you on June 15 is dated June 6, 1887.

I dispensed it with 8 grains of quinine, thinking 1-grain dose was intended. I am informed by a London wholesale firm that they supply a solution of 4 grains to the ounce when asked for liq. quinae. A provincial house says a solution of 8 grains to the ounce is what they should dispense. I have communicated with the writer of the prescription, whose formula is—

Quinae sulph.	..	..	..	grs. vj.
Acid. sulph. dil.	..	..	..	q.s.
Aqua cal	..	..	..	3ij.

Yours truly,

X. Y. Z. (126/42.)



## Sir A. Clark's Prescriptions.

SIR,—Would some one who is accustomed with Sir A. Clark's prescriptions be good enough to say how this ought to be dispensed:—

Glycerini acid. carbol. .. .. 3vj.  
 Quinina hydrochlor. .. .. grs. viij.  
 Hydr. perchlor. .. ..  $\frac{1}{2000}$  per cent. (sic).

Fiat applicatio.

Yours truly,

THOMAS. (126/32)

[The method of dispensing this preparation, as suggested by Mr. Martindale, is noted in an article on Hay Fever, on page 749, vol. xxx. There it is directed to heat the whole of the articles together until solution is effected. The expression  $\frac{1}{2000}$  per cent. is intended to mean, we presume,  $\frac{1}{2000}$  part of the weight of the whole.]

## A Clever Dispenser.

SIR,—The enclosed prescription was handed in the other day to dispense. I am unable to form a presentable mixture without the addition of aq. 3ij., and even then it requires a "shake" label. The customer states it had been made up by another, and a perfectly clear mixture was the result. I thought possibly syr. hypophosph. co. had been given instead.

Manganese hypophosph. .. .. gr. 48  
 Sodæ hypophosph. .. .. 3ij.  
 Calcis hypophosph. .. .. 3iij.  
 Syr. simplicis .. .. 3ij.

Yours truly,

SCOT. (126/63.)

[The dispenser who succeeded in forming a solution of the above is too good for this world.]

## LEGAL QUERIES.

34/125. *H. H.* writes:—Supposing I put up a balsam of aniseed quite distinct in appearance, &c., from Powell's, and I put a row in the window and exhibit a card upon them "Superior to Powell's," is such an action illegal?

[Mr. Powell might bring an action for libel against you, as you might not be able to justify your assertion.]

56/125. *E. W.*—There is no stipulation in any of the U. S. Pharmacy Acts that the British certificate will be accepted in lieu of the State examination, where such is required. But we have been informed that in some of the Western States the presentation of such a certificate, together with the fee, renders the examination to some extent formal.

60/125. *W. E. J.* ask whether it is general to endorse an apprentice's indentures when out of his time, saying "that he has served faithfully," &c., or just to return them to him?

[We do not quite see how we are to ascertain whether the custom is general without taking a plébiscite of the trade. We cannot see, however, what objection there can be to such an endorsement if it be a true statement.]

67/125. *F. A. G.* asks whether a widow can carry on her late husband's business, having a qualified assistant, but still keeping up the name of her late husband on shop front, labels, &c., and if legal, can it be carried on for any length of time under the same style?

[The only exposition of the law in reference to widows has been in the case of Pharmaceutical Society v. Judd, reported in the CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, November 20, 1886. The County Court Judge at Warwick held that any "executor, administrator, or trustee" had the right to continue the business of the chemist for whose estate he or she was appointed, so long as the required condition (managed by a duly-qualified assistant) is fulfilled. Note that the widow does not carry on the business as widow, but as executrix, &c. There does not seem to be any law against the use of an incorrect name over the door, but whenever poisons are sold the actual name of the owner of the business should appear on the label.

This requirement is habitually disregarded by a great many eminent pharmacists, from the President of the Pharmaceutical Society downwards.]

48/126. *Pharmacist.*—You will see by our reports this week that there is a legal remedy against drug companies consisting of unqualified persons.

## MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

123/74. *Petrolina.*—Ice Cream.—Milk, 1 quart; 2 eggs; sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; gelatine, cut small,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Whisk the eggs, add the milk and sugar, and heat on a fire nearly to boiling, stirring constantly all the time. Then add the gelatine and stir until dissolved. (The gelatine may be softened with an ounce of water before adding it to the milk mixture.) When the mixture is cold flavour it and transfer to the freezer. In the process of freezing be careful to stir the mixture well.

123/62. *Dum Spiro Spero.*—Iodol is made by adding a solution of iodine and iodide of potassium to animal oil, when the tetraiodide of pyraline is precipitated, and may be collected and purified by recrystallisation.

*Juno.*—Petroleum is one of the best things for exterminating ants. Saturate with the oil the earth in the vicinity of their haunts.

123/42. *Kino.*—Try the tonic for which you will find a formula in last week's issue, page 13.

124/44. *Jubilee.*—Black Enamel for Tricycles.—Try the following:—Fuse 40 oz. of asphaltum, and add half a gallon of boiled linseed oil, 6 oz. red lead, 6 oz. litharge, and 4 oz. sulphate of zinc dried and powdered. Boil for two hours, and mix in 8 oz. fused dark amber gum and a pint of hot linseed oil, and boil again for two hours more. When the mass has thickened, withdraw the heat, and thin down with a gallon of turpentine.

247/25. *Acid Cit.*—Cement for Bicycle Tires.—Melt 2 parts of asphalt and 1 part of gutta percha together in an iron crucible. When quite hot apply to the wheel, which must also be hot, then slip on the tire. If the wheel is not hot the cement will turn out a failure.

122/71. *Equus.*—We gave a formula for excellent horse condition powders in our issue of January 22, page 124. The following is from the "Veterinary Treatise," published by us several years ago:—

Ferri peroxidi .. ..	6 oz.
Antimon. nig. pulv. .. ..	3 "
Sulphur sublim. .. ..	4 "
Pulv. potas. nit. .. ..	4 "
Ol. carui et anisi, each .. ..	1 drachm

Mix.

Dose: A tablespoonful.

**Liquid Blister.**—Cantharides, 4 oz.; euphorbium, 1 oz.; camphor, 1 oz.; turpentine or methylated spirit, 1 pint; digest for seven days; press and filter.

**Furniture Cream.**—Yellow wax, 1 lb.; turpentine, 40 oz.; soft soap, 4 oz.; pearl ash, 2 oz.; water to make 1 gallon. Melt the wax with a pint of water; dissolve the soap and pearl ash in the remainder, and with this mixture incorporate the turpentine; then add this emulsion to the wax and water gradually, and keep agitating until cold.

122/73. *Hirudo* asks what is the best way to Preserve Leeches alive. Many methods have been proposed, few of them being absolutely successful. Note first, that the water should be changed once a week in winter, and twice a week in summer. The fresh water should be, as near as possible, of the same temperature as the old. If any of the leeches are covered with slimy matter remove it. Keep a small



honeycomb sponge in the water, as well as a layer of pebbles. Any spring water may be used.

122/43. *Science Degrees*.—*Would-be Graduate* would like to know whether an English scientist can obtain the degree of Bachelor of Science (on examination without residence) at Brussels or other foreign university?

122/55. *J. Grinstead*.—*Elixir of Cascara Sugrada*.—A palatable preparation is made from the following formula:—

Tinct. zingiberis .. .. .	3iv.
Tinct. cardamom. eo. .. ..	3iiss.
Ext. glycyrrhiz. liq. .. ..	3ij.
Ext. rhamni pursh. liq. .. ..	3iv.

M.

*Dose*. Half to a whole teaspoonful for an adult.

Taraxacum is sometimes added; and, if desired, 3 oz. of the juice and 1 oz. of glycerine may be added to the above.

122/56. *Grain Musk* wishes "Notts" to state which Hop Bitters formula he has used.

The glycerine and cucumber formula has undergone no alteration so far as the ingredients are concerned. It is the mode of procedure which "S. P." referred to.

125/8. *Nepenthe*.—A correspondent sends us the following as a similar preparation to "Nepenthe":—

Acid citric .. .. .	3vss.
Morph. par. .. .. .	3iv.
Vin. xerici .. .. .	26 lbs.
S.V.R. .. .. .	3xv.
Aque puræ .. .. .	10 lbs. 3ij.
Pulv. opii .. .. .	3ij.

Rub the morphia with the citric acid and the water, then add the opium, spirit, and lastly the sherry, digest for several days, and filter.

[It should be noted that no one other than the originators may make and sell any preparation of opium or its alkaloids as "Nepenthe." In reference to the above formula, it may be noted that in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of December, 1883, the result of an analysis of that preparation was published. The analysis showed that morphia was the only opium constituent present in quantity; meconic acid was not found, and there was only a faint trace of codeia. It follows from this that the preparation is not made direct from opium, or if so that everything but morphia is carefully removed. The formula given in 1883 was as follows:—

Morphiæ tart. .. .. .	gr. iij.
Morphiæ sulph. .. .. .	gr. j.
Vin. xerici. .. .. .	3j.

The solution should be allowed to stand for several weeks before filtering, as it deposits considerably.]

74/124. *J. H. J.*—You can get all particulars respecting the constituencies and capital of any limited companies by paying 1s. at Somerset House; but you would not be sure to get there the names of the managers or secretaries.

125/16. *Calcium*.—The "gum" which you send is dextrine, generally sold as gum substitute. Effervescing Saline.—Tartaric acid, 9 oz.; bicarbonate of soda, 10 oz.; chlorate of potash, 2 drachms; dried sulphate of magnesia, 3 drachms; sugar, 3 oz. Mix. There is no proof that the chlorate of potash in the saline has the least tendency to induce explosions.

125/29. *Grateful*.—The case is one in which we cannot advise you. If local medical men have failed your friend should consult a specialist. See list of hospitals for diseases of the skin in the 1887 DIARY, page 122.

125/2. *Nemo*.—You will find a number of formulæ for *Sachet Perfumes* in our issue for February, 1886, page 91.

*Pot pourri* is generally sold for mixing with rose leaves. The following is a formula for that:—

Tonquin bean .. .. .	1 oz.
Cinnamon, cloves, pimento, each .. ..	1 "
Coriander .. .. .	4 "
Benzoin .. .. .	5 "
Orris root .. .. .	1 lb.

Reduce the whole to coarse powder and mix, adding half an ounce of ess. bouquet towards the end. Bay salt is sometimes added, but this should preferably be mixed with the rose leaves along with the pot pourri.

125/6. *George*.—*Harness Blacking*.—The following are good formulæ:—(1) Mutton suet, 2 oz.; bees'-wax, 6 oz. Melt and add sugar-candy (previously finely powdered), 4 oz.; soft soap, 2 oz.; lamp-black, 2½ oz.; indigo (in fine powder), ½ oz. Mix well and bring to the consistency of a soft paste by means of turpentine. (2) Bees'-wax, 6 oz.; turpentine, 8 oz. Melt with a gentle heat, then add ivory-black, 6 oz.; prussian blue, ½ oz.; soft soap, 4 oz. Make a stiff paste with powdered sugar-candy, and add 1 oz. of copal varnish to bring to the proper consistency.

122/62. *A. D.*—*Cocaine Solutions* are, according to Dr. Squibb, best preserved by the addition of from a half to one per cent. of boracic acid. Solution of salicylate of cocaine is not so liable to develop fungoid growths.

125/38. *Syrupus*.—*Seltzogene Syrups*.—Ginger: Double strength official syrup flavoured with lemon. Ginger-ale Syrup: Soluble essence of ginger, 3x.; tincture of fresh lemon peel, 3j.; essence of vanilla, mxx.; tincture of capsicum, 3j. Mix. Add ½ to 1 oz. of this and 2 drachms of citric acid to each pint of simple syrup, and colour with caramel.

*Muriatic Acid Explosion*.—A maker of muriatic acid at Birmingham writes to express his surprise at a report we published last week of an explosion of muriatic acid. "I have made it," he says, "for thirty-five years, and consider you must have made a mistake calculated to do the trade much harm. We are now *done to death* with inspectors. I have daily visits from excise, explosive, chemical, boat, smoke, school, police, and sanitary inspectors, who know little.

I pay 3s. for nitric acid licence—for what I do not know, unless it is to find a snug berth for some one. Many things are now in the Explosives Acts that cannot be exploded, as I proved to them when they summoned me last. Like Shylock, they could only say, "Is it not in the deed [or Act]?"

*Beginner* has not observed the conditions under which we reply to correspondents.

126/23. *Student*.—*Pharmacy Instruction for M.R.C.S.* can now be taken after the first examination, as materia medica and pharmacy may be taken as part of the second examination. The instruction in practical pharmacy must be given by a registered medical practitioner, or by a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, or in a public hospital, infirmary, or dispensary.

#### "The Chemist and Druggist."

Renewing subscribers write as follows:—

"I have been greatly pleased for the past twelve months, and have found the market reports particularly useful and reliable. (9/251.)

"Your periodical has the double merit of containing useful information and being very interesting reading. I hope you will be able to maintain its excellent character." (12/251.)

Je vous remercie, Monsieur, pour les précieux renseignements que vous nous communiquez chaque semaine. (7/125.)